

TOMORROW TELLS WHETHER STECHER IS REAL ARTICLE OR MERELY FLASH IN THE PAN

Victory Over Plestina Will Restore Dodge Phenom to Good Graces of Nebraska Fans; Defeat Spells the End of His Meteoric Journey to Wrestling Fame.

By FRED S. HUNTER.

Tomorrow is the day toward which Omaha and Nebraska wrestling fans look with eager, anticipating eyes.

For tomorrow tells the tale whether Joe Stecher, once the pride and joy of Dodge county and all Nebraska and the man credited with putting the wrestling game on its feet in the Cornhusker state, is still the powerful grappler of old, or whether he has come to the end of his journey.

Four years ago, Omaha heard murmurs from out in the state. They told wondrous tales of a farmer lad and his prowess in the squared circle. They told of how he had conquered, humbled and routed all who faced him. They told of a marvelous and terrible scissor hold with which no human could cope.

Omaha was skeptical. Omaha had seen many wrestling matches and many wrestlers. Well might Omaha be skeptical. Omaha remembered one wrestling match in particular in which the opposing gladiators even went so far as to deliver an occasional punch in the jaw in a two-hour joust which wound up in a draw. It was a great match, the spectators were pleased. Yet the next day, it was discovered all was not what it might have been.

Paid Little Heed.

So Omaha paid little heed to the achievements of the man from Dodge and scouted the stories which told of Stecher's great prowess and irreproachable integrity.

Finally, however, Stecher came to Omaha. He was matched to wrestle a fourth rater from Chicago at the Krug theater. A bare handful of fans turned out and they refused to be impressed by that scissor which had become so celebrated out in the state.

So Stecher returned to Dodge and for a year confined his matches to the smaller towns. But when Independence day, 1915, rolled around, Stecher was induced to try Omaha again. He did. He wrestled Charley Carter of Chicago, then styled the American Heavyweight champion. Stecher squeezed Carter once and the match was over.

Mat Game Restored.

In less time than it takes to tell it, the mat game was restored to favor in Omaha. That is, it was restored as far as Stecher was concerned. Joe continued to meet all comers. And with the aid of the terrible scissor, he bowled over all who faced him in such remarkably fast time that soon Omaha, like its country cousins out in the state, was spinning yarns of the great Stecher, his terrible scissor and his unimpeachable honesty.

So great was their faith in Joe, that many mortgaged their homes to risk on Stecher, firmly believing there was no chance he would be double-crossed by a framed match as long as Stecher was one of the combatants.

Stecher alone had returned the wrestling fame to favor in Nebraska. Last fall, however, Stecher went east. In Springfield, Mass., he wrestled one John Olin. A decision was awarded against him. The news startled Nebraska. They couldn't understand it. But their faith in Stecher was so strong, they remained unchanged, they did not doubt him. They were sure something was the matter.

The Turning Point.

Then Stecher wrestled Caddock in Omaha last April. He won the first fall. Nebraska fans were now convinced it was no fault of Stecher that he lost to Olin. But Caddock won the second fall. It almost paralyzed his followers. They waited for the third fall, but it never came. Stecher refused to continue.

Immediately, the mat fans, who had such faith in Stecher, became divided. Some accused him of possessing a canary-colored streak up his spinal column and admitted they had just detected it. Others decided Stecher had fallen into temptation, had gone the way of those before him. Others, less hasty, believed, perhaps, he was merely out of condition, and still others agreed he had been conquered at last by a better man.

Later it was discovered that Joe was not in shape that fatal night; that he had not trained as he should and that he was suffering from a bad cold and a running ear.

Is a Puzzle.

But no matter what happened that April night, Stecher right now is a puzzle. He has wrestled so big matches since. Whether he merely fell out of his stride temporarily or whether he is completely through is a mystery. Tomorrow night will tell the tale.

Plestina is acknowledged by all students of the game to be one of the best wrestlers now in the profession. He is probably the strongest of them all. He has had wide experience, is a careful student of his calling and is crafty. In order to beat him, it is agreed Stecher must be at his very best. He has never before faced a tougher opponent.

So, if Stecher was tomorrow night, he will be returned to the good graces of those who followed him through his meteoric career, and they will back him against all who challenge. His name once more will be written in boldface type in Nebraska's hall of fame.

Defeat Ends All.

But, if he loses, his sun has set. He becomes a memory, his hash is settled for all time, and Plestina, no doubt, will take his place in the affections of Nebraska's devotees of the padded mat game.

That, in substance, sums up the situation of tomorrow night's big match. It should be a great match. It may not be, either Stecher or Plestina may prove a big disappointment, but if the latter should happen, say goodbye to the wrestling game's dope sheet; it will be valueless then.

Old Spavs Organize;

Hurl Sweeping Defeat

Clarence Hall, once a well-known figure on the Omaha sandlots, has assembled a team of former greats of Omaha amateur base ball and has issued an open challenge to any team in the city.

Among the ancient warriors Hall has collected are Frank Quigley, catcher; Hillard Morearty, pitcher; Edward Clair, first; Clarence Hall, second; Frank Welch, short; John Saup, third; Frank Spellman, Edward Lafferty and Ogan Barr, outfielders.

Hall declares he is willing, yet, even anxious, to pit this ancient crew against the Armour, Beselme or Mandy-Did-Its.

Every one of Hall's nine played ball over a decade ago.

OMAHA AND LINKS TO PLAY CRICKET

Annual Match for Nebraska and Iowa Challenge Cup to Be Staged at Miller Park Labor Day.

Omaha and Lincoln will resume their ancient struggle for cricket supremacy of Nebraska at Miller park Labor day afternoon.

The cricket clash will be the feature attraction of the annual picnic of the Omaha chapter of the Sons and Daughters of St. George.

In the past, the Labor day cricket joust has been a three-cornered event with Omaha, Lincoln and Sioux City competing for the Nebraska and Iowa challenge cup. This year, however, Sioux City found itself unable to organize a team, owing to the call of the army. So Omaha and Lincoln will fight it out alone.

Lincoln has an edge on Omaha in that it has an older team. Their "catcher," Pibel, is one of the best in this country and Holder and Maycock are two cricket stars of first magnitude.

Officers to Be Guests.

The staff from the local British recruiting office will be guests at the cricket match and picnic. The cricket game starts at 1:30 and will be followed by a program of sports, after which a picnic lunch will be served. Each member, this year, will bring his own lunch, as the chapters have decided to devote all available funds to war charities and other similar patriotic purposes and conservation is the order of the day.

The Omaha team to defend the Gate City's honor on the cricket field will consist of: J. Douglas, captain; H. Douglas, J. Calvert, T. B. Hoyle, T. Kenworthy, W. H. Jones, W. H. Stribling, J. Vaughan, H. R. Moore, P. Cleary, J. Kempshaw, P. Lowden, H. Williams, H. Forehead, J. Seymour, H. Eggleston, G. Peacock, F. Stubbs and G. J. S. Collins.

Omaha Horses Entered in Lincoln State Fair Races

The Hildreth stables, A. L. Thomas, W. T. Auld, John D. Creighton, Tom Dennison, A. O. M. Smith, H. M. Whitmer, Jack Kirkpatrick and Judge Sears are Omahans who have horses entered in the races at the Nebraska State fair at Lincoln this week.

The Hildreth stables have Cora Frisco, Ray Filer and Brown Filley entered in the 2-year-old trot, Garriey in the 2:17 pace, Mahaba in the 2:20 trot and Electric Togo and Cambridge Bell in the 2:15 pace.

Thomas has Alta Donovan in the 2-year-old trot, Giel McKinney in the 2:11 trot, Noble Aubrey in the 3-year-old trot and King Will in the 2:20 trot and 2:15 trot.

Auld has Audworthy entered in the 2-year-old trot and Creighton has Empire Bond in the 2:11 trot. Tom Dennison has Miss Gayle in the 2:18 trot and 2:22 trot and Hal Connor in the 2:12 pace.

Smith has Gov. V entered in the 2:18 trot, Whitmer has Starburg in the 3-year-old pace, Kirkpatrick Polata in the 2:15 pace and Judge Sears Mary Line in the 3-year-old pace.

Cornhusker Floor Crack Leaves for Navy School

The Cornhuskers have lost another star athlete to the wa. Johnny Collins, Omaha lad who played on Coach Stewart's basketball five last year, has joined the navy and left for Newport, R. I., to enter the training station at that point.

Collins was captain of the famous 1915 South High basketball quintet and was a star performer in the Tri-City league before going to Nebraska where he was a star last year.

Winnie Noyes Certified For Service in the Army

Winnie Noyes, Nebraska lad who has made a name for himself as a member of Connie Mack's hurling corps, yesterday was certified for service in Uncle Sam's draft army. Noyes, whose home is at Pleasant, Neb., registered at Kearney and it was in Buffalo county that he was certified.

EX-ROURKE MAKES GOOD WITH CUBS—Here's a picture of Oklahoma Pete Kilduff, star shortstop for the Rourkes last year, as he appears in a big league uniform. Little Pete is more than holding his own as guardian of the short field for Mitchell's crew.



OMAHA COMES HOME FOR FINAL SERIES REDS TAKE BIG BITE OUT OF LITTLE CUBS

Eight More Games All that Will Be Played in Local Ballpark This Season; St. Joseph Tomorrow.

Still in the thick of the pennant fight, Pa Rourke's pets return home tomorrow for their final series of the season on the local lot.

After today's mix in Lincoln the Rourkes have sixteen more games to play before the windup of the season. Eight are at home and eight on the road.

The eight at home will be played this week, starting tomorrow, when Ed Hanlon's new St. Joseph team invades the Gate City.

Two games will be played with St. Joseph tomorrow, as it is Labor day. The Saints also will exhibit in Omaha Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thursday Des Moines comes. Coffey's crew will be the attraction Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday's game will be the last one of the season in Omaha unless the Rourkes get into the post-season series, which they have high hopes of doing.

After next Sunday's game the Rourkes go to St. Joseph for four games and then to Des Moines, where they wind up the season with a four-game series.

Rourkes Have Edge. Omaha fans rather love the Rourkes to capture the pennant for the second season. Omaha plays all its remaining games with St. Joseph and Des Moines and these two teams right now are the weakest in the league with the exception, perhaps, of Denver.

Hutchinson and Wichita, on the other hand, both bump into Joplin, a fairly tough proposition, and then they must play a series between themselves.

So Omaha fans believe the Rourkes have an edge in the final pennant drive.

The post-season series between Des Moines and the club which wins the pennant for the second season will start immediately after the close of the season. It will be conducted under world's series rules and the players will share. The winning team will be officially recognized as the champion.

Famous Gas Bike Riders Enter Omaha Championship

Some of the fastest bike riders in the country are coming to Omaha for the 100-mile Nebraska championship event, which will be held on the East Omaha speedway next Sunday, under the auspices of the Omaha Motorcycle club.

Ray Creviston, Floyd Clymer, Irving Yankee, Leslie (Red) Parkhurst, Clarence and Ray Nielson are some of the nationally known riders who are expected to take part.

In addition a number of the local speed boys are tuning up their mounts for the race and expect to give the professionals a run for their money.

Three events on the half mile dirt track will be held in addition to the century run.

Muny Water Carnival Is Postponed Until Monday

The water carnival, scheduled for Municipal Beach yesterday afternoon, was postponed on account of the cool weather. The event will be held at the Muny beach Labor day.

Pete Wendell, formerly swimming instructor at the Chicago Young Men's Christian association, will have charge of the aquatic program and has rounded up a number of the old Young Men's Christian association. Seals to give exhibitions. Among Wendell's aids will be Earle Whitehall, Swede Anderson, Julius Etzige, William Westlund, E. P. Woodcock, Jack Yates and E. E. Benson.

OMAHA SWATS ONE AT THE DUCKLINGS

Lincoln Comes Within One Run of Forcing Battle Into Extra Innings; Rourkes Bunch and Win.

Lincoln, Sept. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Omaha took the third game of the series here this afternoon, 5 to 4, by hitting Meyers freely when hits counted and taking advantage of the Ducklings' numerous fielding blunders.

The Ducks put up another ragged exhibition in the field, mussing up six chances.

The Holmes' crew threw a scare into the Omaha camp, however, by uncorning a rally in the ninth, which came within one of flouting the count.

Williams was the heavy gun in the Rourke artillery, getting a triple, double and single.

Williams opened the game home on tripling to right and he rode home on Shaw's single.

In the third, Phil Cooney reached first on an error, swiped second and scored on Williams' single.

In the sixth Williams doubled and Miller followed with another double. Miller rang up with another run when Shaw singled. Brotton's double and an error scored the final run with two down.

Parks became unsettled after an error and a lucky hit had placed men on the runways at the Ducks put four runs over, with a man on second waiting to score the tying run. Parks forced Bayless to lift a puny fly. The final game of the series is played Sunday.

Nimrods Polish Up Guns for Opening The Hunting Season

Omaha nimrods are beginning to polish up their weapons for the annual fall campaign on the feathered flocks which fly over Nebraska on their way to the warm and sunny south.

Shooting in Nebraska starts September 15 this season. Heretofore it has started September 1, but the last legislature chopped another fifteen days from the season during last winter's session.

The open season on ducks, geese, snipe, killdeer and yellow legs opens September 16 and continues until December 31.

Open season on prairie chickens, grouse and sage hens starts September 16 and closes November 15. The season on squirrels extends from October 1 to November 31.

The season is closed on turtle doves for two years.

Coombs and Burns Form Mutual Admiration League

One time last season Jack Coombs was discussing his work as a pitcher and his methods of pitching to the different batters. In reply to a question as to what batter he found it hardest to pitch to, he replied:

"Well, that's a hard question to answer. They're all hard—and any batter in the league, no matter how carefully you figure his capabilities, is liable to cut loose at any time and upset all your calculations. However, I believe George Burns gives me more trouble than any other man to whom I have to pitch. He is a good batter, and it's a hard matter to fool him, because it is seldom, indeed, that he strikes at a bad ball. Yes, I should say he's a tough proposition for any pitcher."

Not long ago Burns was asked what pitcher he found hardest to hit. He didn't hesitate a moment.

"That's easy," he said, "Jack Coombs."

Boehler to Get \$50 Check For Hitting Bull in Omaha

George Boehler, former Denver pitcher, will receive a check for \$50 September 3 for hitting the Bull Durham sign at Rourke park May 13.

It is announced the presentation of the check will occur at Denver, but Boehler has quit the Denver team and retired to his home in Indiana because of a sore arm, and anyway the Denver team plays no more games at home, so George will have to come here if he receives the check as per announcement of the Bull Durham people.

Connie Mack Hesitates to Pick A. L. Race Winner

"It looks like boss and boss to me," said Connie Mack, manager of the Athletics, when asked to say whether the Red or White Sox would win the pennant.

"Boston is a great money team," he continued, "and has not failed to deliver when it had to in the last two or three seasons. But Chicago is batting better and seems to have a more powerful punch of late. But each is so good I surely cannot make a choice between them."

Drake Seeks New Coach; Glaze Goes to Colorado

Athletic authorities at Drake university are searching for a new athletic director as a result of the loss of Ralph Glaze, who has signed with the State Teachers' college of Greeley, Colo.

Glaze assumed charge of athletics at Drake last season. He is one of the best known athletes in the country. He was a star at Dartmouth in all branches of sports and was major league pitcher for several years.

Enough to Win

OMAHA.	A. B. R.	H.	O.	A.	E.	
Cooney, 2b.	4	1	0	4	3	0
Williams, rf.	2	4	0	1	0	0
Shaw, 1b.	4	0	3	14	0	1
Yardley, ss.	4	0	1	2	1	1
Brotton, cf.	4	0	2	3	0	0
Thompson, c.	4	0	2	3	0	0
Nye, 3b.	4	0	0	2	3	0
Park, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	25	5	12	27	16	3

LINCOLN.	A. B. R.	H.	O.	A.	E.	
Smith, 2b.	5	1	1	5	1	0
Thompson, c.	4	2	1	0	0	0
Brotton, cf.	4	0	0	0	0	0
Shaw, 1b.	4	0	1	0	0	0
Gregg, 3b.	4	1	0	5	1	1
Elliott, 2b.	4	0	0	0	0	0
Nell, 3b.	2	0	0	0	0	1
Gregory, 1b.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Meyers, p.	1	2	0	2	0	0
Totals.	38	4	9	27	17	4

Batted for Seik in ninth.
Omaha: 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—3
Lincoln: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4—4

Three-base hits: Williams, Brottom, Elliott (2).
Smith, Double plays: Smith to Brottom, Smith to Elliott, Brottom to Smith. Stolen bases: Cooney, Miller (2), Brottom, Thompson. Struck out: By Park, off Meyers, 4; by Sallee, 0; by Park, 1. Earned runs: Lincoln, 3; Omaha, 4. Left on bases: Lincoln, 8; Omaha, 7. Error: Off Park, 1. In nine innings. Time: 1:48. Umpire: Brown.

CITY GOLF PLAY TO START SEPTEMBER 9

First Thirty-Six Holes to Be Played at Field Club Next Sunday; Second Thirty-Six at Happy Hollow.

The annual city golf championship tournament will start September 9. The play will be seventy-two holes. The first thirty-six holes will be played over the Field club course September 9, followed by a second thirty-six holes over the Happy Hollow course September 16.

The players will be divided into three classes and their class determined by their play on the first thirty-six holes.

The entry fee will be \$1 and all funds will be turned over to the Red Cross.

Featherweight Scrapper At Navy Training School

Cal Delaney, a Cleveland featherweight, is at the Great Lakes Naval Training station. Cal has fought Johnny Kilbane and two other top-notchers in the 122-pound division and ranks high in the fistie world.

He probably will act as assistant to Gunner Frank Kennedy, who is instructing young jacks in boxing.

Several well known Chicago pugilists and wrestlers are holding classes at the Great Lakes Naval Training station. The grapplers are Ben Reuben, claimant of the middleweight championship; Jack Grappel, Herb Singer and Sam Varron. The latter three are amateurs. Maurice Flynn, Morris Bloom and Eddie Nearing are among the Chicago boxers at the station.

The Great Lakes Naval Training station ball team is attracting attention throughout the middle west. The team has won seven of its nine games from some of the strongest clubs around Chicago. Phil Choinard, former outfielder for the Chicago White Sox, is managing the team.

Three Rounds Golf in Less Than Seventy, Is Record

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 1.—Scoring three successive rounds of golf in fewer than seventy strokes over a complete course is a record performance completed today by Alfred F. Hackbarth, professional at the Hinsdale Golf club, over his own course, which is 6,165 yards long and exceedingly sporty. Hackbarth's scores were 68, 68 and 69. Par for the course is 73. A fourth round, which was interrupted at the fifteenth hole, promised a 67 if completed on the basis of the holes played.

The class of the golf played is indicated by the fact that the 65-year old sixteenth hole, probably the longest in the world and with a par of six, was played twice in eagle 4s and the third time in birdie 5. Each of the rounds contained a 2.

Ohio State Must Find New Talent for Gridiron Team

Columbus, O., Aug. 27.—Ohio state university probably will have a foot ball team this season, though for a time the outlook was dubious. Coach Mark Banks, who has been at Athens, O., has told friends that he did not intend to make any further attempt to enter the military service, and expected to head athletics at Ohio in 1917-18. Banks tried his luck at the first camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, but after a few weeks he was dismissed, because of a foot ball injury received some years ago.

Out of about thirty men upon whom Banks was figuring as material for another championship eleven, only about ten remain in school. The others have each entered some branch of the government service.

Pitcher Daily Goes Back To Coast After Nice Trip

Pitcher Dailey, the big youngster secured by Detroit from Seattle of the Northwestern league and sent to Toronto, where he failed to please, has been shipped west again, the Portland club of the Coast league having secured him for the remainder of the season. Dailey saw a lot of country, anyway.

Browns Get Twenty Bucks Each for Drilling Prize

Members of the St. Louis Americans will receive \$20.83 each as their share of the \$500 prize offered by President Johnson of the American league to the club winning the complete league military drill. Twenty-four players will cut into the prize. Sergeant Winfred B. Wisener, who drilled the players, will get \$100.

Cleveland Club Trainer To Enlist in Navy Again

Charles Hitte, trainer for the Cleveland Americans, not only intends to re-enlist in the navy after the season closes, but announces that his son, Charles Hitte, jr., intends to serve on one of the nation's sea fighters.

Hitte saw active service in the navy during the Spanish-American war. He was a gunner's mate.

MANY BIG RING CLASHES CARDED FOR LABOR DAY

Almost Every Box Fighter in Land Except Jess Willard Is Scheduled for a Holiday Tangle.

Seidman has a greater bunch of high-class pugilists being rounded up for a holiday boxing menu than the aggregation who will take part in the Labor day bouts scheduled to be held Labor day afternoon and evening in cities throughout the country. The air will be surcharged, figuratively speaking, with biff! bang! from start to finish. With several champions and near-champions appearing in the ring—to say nothing of the numerous lesser lights of the squared circle—the fistie fans will be afforded a feast of fisticuffs that should appeal to the most satiated of the blase patrons of the game.

Most interest centers in the contest between the two heavyweights, Carl Morris of Oklahoma and Fred Fulton of Minnesota, which is slated to take place at Canton, O. It will be a fifteen-round decision bout and the winner will be the logical challenger of Jess Willard for the heavyweight title. Morris and Fulton are terrific battlers and as both are reported to be in the best physical condition, it is expected that the Canton fans and visitors will be treated to a contest well worth seeing.

Ted Lewis, the welterweight champion, will be called upon to defend his title in a twenty-round go at Akron, O. Ted fighter he will go against Johnny Griffiths, the rugged Akron battler, who has been clamoring for another chance at the great English boxer.

Gibbons Brothers Carded. The Gibbons brothers of St. Paul, who seldom fail to put up a good fight against any opponent, are both to be seen in action on Labor day bouts. Mike is to take on Jack Dillon in a ten-round contest at Terre Haute, while Brother Tommy is slated to face Gus Christie for fifteen rounds at Dayton.

Battling Levinsky, the fast and clever Hebrew light heavyweight, is scheduled to face Harry Greb, the promising light heavyweight of Pittsburgh, in a six-round contest. The affair is to be pulled off in the open air at the Pittsburgh base ball park, under the auspices of the Keystone Athletic club.

Joe Welling of Chicago, who has made good in nearly all of his recent bouts, is booked to meet Frankie Callahan, the Brooklyn lightweight, for ten rounds at Racine. Welling claims that his injured hand is strong again and that he intends to try and stop Callahan as quickly as possible.

Coffey Comes Back

After a layoff of several months, Jim Coffey, the Irish heavyweight, is to take a hand at the fighting game again. He is signed to meet Bartley Madden for ten rounds at a special Labor day boxing show to be given by the Fairmont Athletic club of the Bronx.

Jack Sharkey, who substituted for Jabez White at a minute's notice at Saratoga the other night against Pal Moore, made such a wonderful showing that he was matched to meet Kid Williams for fifteen rounds in the Labor day show at Baltimore. Young Sharkey is under the management of Joe Wagner, who has matched his other star bantam, Battling Reddy of Harlem, for a twelve round bout with Young Britt, to take place at New Bedford.

The National Athletic club of Providence has arranged a promising Labor day show for its patrons. The main event will bring together Young Brown of New York and Walter Mohr of Brooklyn. In the semi-final Johnny Howard of Bayonne and Larry Williams of Philadelphia will clash. Both bouts will be twelve rounds to a decision.

Knockout Eggers, the rugged New York bantamweight, and Billy Bevan of Wilkesbarre are to furnish the main attraction in the Labor day show arranged by the Olympia Athletic association of Philadelphia. In New Orleans the fistie fans will be treated to a contest between Pal Moran and Jimmy Hanlon. Pete Hanlon, claimant of the bantamweight title, will take on Nate Jackson for ten rounds at Tulsa, Young Wallace and Sailor Kirk are down for a Victorian bout at St. Joseph, Mo. Vic Moran and Bryan Downey are on the bills for a twelve-round setto at Columbus, O., and Terry Brooks and Battling Downey are scheduled to furnish the main attraction in a show to be pulled off at Portland, Me.

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