



### SNAPPY GAMES MARK OPENING OF CAGE PLAY

#### Nakens, Townsends and Commerce High Quintets Are Winners in First Games in Commercial League.

Omaha's 1917-18 basket ball season started in earnest at the Young Men's Christian association Thursday, when six teams of the Commercial league played their opening contests of the season. Results of last night's play were as follows: Commercial High, 8; Central Furnitures, 7. Townsends, 20; Y. M. H. A., 9. Nakens, 25; M. E. Smiths, 21. None of the teams played in mid-season form, owing to the fact that they all have just been recently organized and have not as yet perfected their team-work, but the three contests were swift and snappy and the 150 cash customers, who were on hand to usher in the new season, were amply repaid.

#### Nakens Take First.

The Nakens-M. E. Smiths clash was the topliner of the evening's battle. After a rip-smorting scrap it was found when the final whistle blew that the teams were deadlocked in a tie. So another five minutes of play was ordered. Again the result was a tie. Another five minutes of play was ordered. But this time the Nakens hit their stride just a little bit faster than the Smiths and returned victorious to the tune of 25 to 21.

Hovey, center of the Smiths, was the star of this combat. Hovey was in rare form. He shot five baskets and was all over the floor. The Commerce High-Central Furnitures clash was another merry mix, although less baskets were slipped in this go. The high school lads came out on the long end of the 8 to 7 score, but only after a desperate conflict marked by close guarding.

The Townsends easily swept over the Young Men's Hebrew association, 20 to 9. The opening night was in every way a huge success. An orchestra contributed harmony between games and between the halves. Vern Moore refereed the contests and Ed Burdick fulfilled the duties of score-keeper.

#### Scores and Lineups.

Scores and lineups were as follows: NAKENS. M. E. SMITHS. Hansen, 1; Joseph, 2; Kromstedt, 3; Hovey, 4; Eversen, 5; Albert, 6; Substitutes: Naksen, Richards at guard; M. E. Smiths, Price at forward. Field goals: Nakens: Hansen, 4; Hovey, 2; Kromstedt, 2; Richards, 2. M. E. Smiths: Hegnis, 1; Joseph, 2; Hovey, 5; Albert, 2. Free goals: Hansen, 1; Hovey, 2. Referee: Moore, Scorer: Burdick. COMMERCE HIGH, CENT. FURNITURE. Cameron, 1; Sandlin, 2; Sandlin, 3; Sandlin, 4; Sandlin, 5; Sandlin, 6; Sandlin, 7; Sandlin, 8; Sandlin, 9; Sandlin, 10; Sandlin, 11; Sandlin, 12; Sandlin, 13; Sandlin, 14; Sandlin, 15; Sandlin, 16; Sandlin, 17; Sandlin, 18; Sandlin, 19; Sandlin, 20. Referee: Moore, Scorer: Burdick. TOWNSENDS. Y. M. H. A. Moore, 1; Johnson, 2; Johnson, 3; Johnson, 4; Johnson, 5; Johnson, 6; Johnson, 7; Johnson, 8; Johnson, 9; Johnson, 10; Johnson, 11; Johnson, 12; Johnson, 13; Johnson, 14; Johnson, 15; Johnson, 16; Johnson, 17; Johnson, 18; Johnson, 19; Johnson, 20. Referee: Moore, Scorer: Burdick.

#### Seattle Man Throws Finlander in N. Y. Bout

New York, Dec. 14.—In the international catch-as-catch-can wrestling tournament here tonight, three finish bouts were contested. Dr. F. F. Roller of Seattle, threw Charles Pospisil of Bohemia, in 14 minutes and 56 seconds with a crotch and a half nelson combined hold. Yashii Haseane defeated Sula Hevonpait of Finland with a half nelson and toe hold in 21 minutes and 10 seconds. Ivan Linow, the Russian Cossack, won from Fred Piliakoff of Finland with a bar lock and half nelson in 37 minutes and 50 seconds.

#### Base Ball Players Enlist in Navy

Shreveport, La., Dec. 14.—John Paul Jones and A. W. Baird, members of the New York Giants, and Frank Carmody of the Pittsburgh Nationals have enlisted in the navy.

#### Today's Sport Calendar

Base ball: Annual meeting of the Southern league, at Birmingham. Football: Directors and coaches of the Western Intercollegiate athletic conference meet in Chicago to discuss the football schedule for next year. Amateur: Seventh annual road race of the Birmingham Athletic club, Birmingham, Ala. Boxing: Tom Crowler vs. Charles Weisner, 60 rounds, at Crowley.

### CREIGHTON FACES STIFF SCHEDULE

#### Coach Mills Has First Five Picked, But Material for the Second Squad Is Puzzling.

Coach Mills is nightly putting his basket ball aspirants through stiff practice on the Creighton gymnasium floor, in anticipation for the long, hard schedule that is ahead of the Creighton five. The Creighton coach is experiencing considerable difficulty in weeding out the men who will compose the second team, for with five regulars back from last season Mills has his whole first team already picked. But the regulars are obliged to keep up a swift pace to maintain their lead over the 13 men who are working heart and soul for a place on the "varsity five." "Chuck" Kearney and Ed Haley, the two lithe forwards have already given evidence that their performance will be nothing short of brilliant on the floor this winter. Both are speed demons in working the ball up and down the floor, their passing is excellent. Vic Spittler, the lengthy center, has the speed and grace of an antelope. There was seen no man on the Creighton floor last winter who could cover more ground without seeming effort, and without tiring, than Mills' dependable center.

#### Guards Land Job.

And as for Captain Eddie Mullholland and Vandever, these two stellar guards, by their consistent work in practice so far have, beyond doubt, shown themselves to be the men for the difficult job of safely guarding the territory around their basket. Of the recruits, Tom Berry and Bill Coyne, have given good accounts of themselves. Both will make the second team, and will also be in several games during the season. Mac Alester, though light, is a fast man on the floor, and is being given due consideration. Martin, who is trying out for center, is green, but Mills hopes to develop him wonderfully before the season has much of a start. Camel, Carroll, Randolph and Moonan are showing up well.

At the annual banquet of the Creighton High school foot ball team held at Creighton hall, letters were awarded to 18 men who composed the squad. The majority of this year's eleven will be back next season, and with a number of veterans in the line-up, a regular coach from the beginning of the season, and complete re-organization and new equipment, Prof. B. P. Costello, faculty director of the team asserts that the Creighton High squad will have a most successful season. Those who received their letters were, Ruffell, Kuhl, Van Ackern, Loneragan, O'Brien, Brainerd, Reinhart, McAlester, Dorsey, L. Kelly, Rossiter, Coyle, Carpenter, Homan, G. Murphy, Flynn, Smith, Shea.

#### Plan Third Annual Volley Ball Tournament

Freemont, Neb., Dec. 14.—(Special).—The third annual volleyball tournament for Nebraska will be held in Freemont in February. Freemont has been selected following a conference of the physical committees of the Fremont and Omaha Young Men's Christian association. York had the tournament last year and Columbus the year before. Last year Freemont furnished two teams, the gent's winning the championship. Teams from Omaha, Lincoln, York, Columbus, Hastings, Grand Island, Seward and Norfolk have promised teams for the coming meet. Freemont will enter three.

#### Big Leagues Fix 154-Game Schedule for Next Season

Chicago, Dec. 14.—The major league base ball season of 1918 will begin Tuesday, April 16, a week later than in previous years and will contain a schedule of 154 games. This was decided today at the joint meeting of National and American league officials.

#### Lumber Workers' 8-Hour Day Speeds U. S. Airplanes

Washington, Dec. 14.—In reporting to President Wilson the voluntary adoption of the eight-hour day after Christmas, Secretary of War Woodrow Wilson, said this action makes the commission confident that the lumber industry in the northwest in its entirety will soon adopt a policy which will be a unique contribution toward the effective execution of the war program.

Much of the timber used in the manufacture of airplanes comes out of the northwest and the adoption in that section of the national policy as to working hours and conditions conducive to stability is expected to speed up the output of timber needed for it and other war purposes.

### Connie Mack Sells Three Stars To Boston Red Sox for \$60,000



Chicago, Dec. 14.—Harry Frazee, president of the Boston Americans, today purchased outfielder Amos Strunk, Pitcher Joe Bush and Catcher Schrang from the Philadelphia Athletics for \$60,000.

### NO SHORTAGE OF SUGAR IN THE U. S.

English and Yiddish that they would refund over charges. **DENVER SWAMPED WITH MEN WHO WANT TO ENLIST**

Denver, Colo., Dec. 14.—All local records for recruiting in the army and navy were passed here today when 190 were accepted for the former and 60 for the latter.

The recruiting offices were filled all day, the crowd extending down the stairways and into the streets where several hundred men eligible for the draft were clamoring to get into the service before the expiration of the time for voluntary enlistment of men subject to the selective draft at noon Saturday.

So great was the influx of prospective soldiers that the public was appealed to for shelter for the men over night. Every downtown rooming house and hotel was filled, emergency dormitories were established at the city and county jails and churches were thrown open so that the visitors might sleep under shelter. The recruits came largely from Colorado and Wyoming, but a large number came from the west, where they found the recruiting offices already filled by men hurrying to enlist. Recruiting officers say here, they will be unable to examine and sign up all the applicants before the time expires Saturday.

### St. Paul Strikers Return To Work; U. S. to Probe

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 14.—All union men in St. Paul and Minneapolis who went on strike today in sympathy with the street car employees had returned to work by mid-afternoon in accordance with instructions from their leaders and the brief interruption caused no known hardships, according to reports tonight of local authorities and big interests.

Immediately after advices were received that President Wilson's special labor commission would investigate the Twin City situation, the strikers in both cities, who had quit as a protest against the state safety commission's anti-union button order, returned to their trades. Not a single act of violence marked the walkout in either town. Home guardsmen are preparing to return to their respective towns. Union officials felt that they won at least a partial victory in the government's decision to look into the controversy.

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### AMERICAN BACKS DIVVY BASED ON "VICTORS' SPOILS"

#### New Division of World Series Receipts Pushed by National League Probable Issue in Coming Confab.

(By Associated Press.) Chicago, Dec. 14.—Retention of the 25-player limit and continuation of the usual spring training trips was decided upon at the closing session of the American league meeting tonight. The club owners cleared up these points in preparation for the joint meeting with the National league here tomorrow. Summarized, the important questions to be considered by the 16 club owners of the two leagues are: The advisability of reducing the playing schedule to 140 games. The advisability of a 154-game schedule running only five and a half months. Devising a method to collect the federal war tax. Settlement of the financial obligations resulting from the Federal league war. Suggestion of a new division of the world's series receipts. Inserting a war clause in the player's contract to protect the club owner in the event the player is called into the national army. Reimbursement a surprise.

President Johnson's announcement that the \$110,000 fund agreed upon to reimburse backers of Federal league clubs still remained unpaid caused a surprise. He said that the American league was ready to pay its share—\$55,000—at once, but that the entire issue would have to be settled by the club owners of the two leagues tomorrow. It was revealed that Edward Gwinner, who lost heavily in backing the Pittsburgh club of the Federal league, is to receive \$50,000 of the fund and that the remainder is to be divided between Harry Sinclair,

### Give Thrift Stamp to Waiter in Lieu of Tip

New York, Dec. 14.—Thrift stamps to waiters was a suggestion placed before the public here today, persons interested in the promotion of the sale of the government coupons. It was learned that the practice had been adopted by a number of restaurant patrons. Where the customary tip amounts to five or 10 cents each day the tip is withheld for several successive days and then the waiter is given a 25-cent thrift stamp to make up the amount of money he would have received.

### Boosts War Clause.

President Johnson declared himself in favor of a new form of contract with a war clause inserted in it for the 1918 season. The clause will affect all drafted or enlisted players and is for the purpose of protecting the club owners. The latter will be absolved from all salary obligations if the player enlists or is drafted. But if the player returns to the game after being discharged from military service he must consider himself still bound to the club with which he last signed.

The price Charles Comiskey, owner of the championship Chicago club, paid for Eddie Collins, star second baseman, was made public tonight by President Johnson. He said Comiskey paid the Philadelphia club \$50,000 for Collins' contract, gave Collins a \$15,000 bonus for signing and signed him for a five-year contract at a salary of \$15,000 a year.

You can secure a maid, stenographer or bookkeeper by using a Bee Want Ad.

### HEAVY RAINS AID ITALIAN TROOPS ON PIAVE RIVER

#### Backward Season Lessened Water Barrier Which Has Now Risen to Normal Height.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 13.—After three days of fighting on the mountain front between the Brenta and Piave rivers the enemy is holding some trenches on Col Beretta and the summit of Monte Spinnuccia, but all the rest of the Italian line is in its original position. This is the enemy's third successive attack with the object of breaking through to the plains.

The backward season continues to be an important factor. A downpour in the last two days has filled the Piave, which had nearly run dry, obliterating the water barrier with the enemy trenches only a few hundred yards away.

The water in the inundated section along the lower Piave also had fallen from five feet to a foot. The rains again made the river a fairly deep barrier and the inundated section is again effectively flooded. Taking advantage of the low water the Austrians occupied a villa near the Lagoon of Venice, in the vicinity of Boro Cavallino. The Italian destroyer Sauro managed to work into the lagoon and landed a party of sailors who destroyed the villa, together with the telephone and machine guns which had been installed.

### Three Dead From Fuel Oil Fire in Navy Tug

Washington, Dec. 14.—Three men were fatally and a fourth seriously injured in the fuel oil fire on a navy tug at an Atlantic port yesterday, the Navy department announced tonight. The dead are:

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