

FORMER ROURKE LEARNING TO BE ARMY AIR PILOT

Woodpecker Williams Is Student Cadet at Kelly Field, Texas; Bradley Joins Topeka Club.

Have Williams, alias the Woodpecker, who played first base and right field for the Rourkes last season, is learning to be an army aviator.

Williams is stationed at Kelly field at San Antonio, Texas. He is a student aviator now, and expects soon to receive a commission and be sent to France.

When he is not looping in the air or turning tall spins and nose dives Dave is playing first base for the soldier team at Kelly field. He has participated in several games against big league clubs training in the Lone Star state.

Williams a year ago was given a trial at first base with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was sent to Rock Island after a short time, however, and then, when the Three league blew up he came to Omaha, where he finished the season.

Bradley at Topeka. Hugh Bradley, who played first base for the Rourkes a part of last year, will wear a Topeka uniform this season. He was signed last week by Spencer Abbott, president of the Kaw club.

Bradley for a time played good ball with Omaha. He batted more than .500 and played a fast game at first. But he failed to behave as well as he might, his batting slump and his playing around the bag slowed up. So when Rourke procured Dave Williams he gave Bradley the gate.

Bradley was a free agent, so Topeka had him without cost.

Bradley was once a big leaguer and played first base for the Boston Red Sox in 1912 when that club won a world's championship. He also is distinguished as a singer, having the classic tenor voice in ball base. He organized the "Base Ball quartet," which has played in vaudeville every year since 1912.

Park College Crack. Jim Park, who pitched and filled utility roles for Omaha last season, is coaching the base ball team at the University of Kentucky. Park, who was recalled by the St. Louis Browns at the close of the 1917 season, was traded to Columbus in the American league.

John McGraw now admits he made one of the greatest mistakes of his life when he let Peterkin get away from him. Muggsy has no second baseman now except the veteran Larry Doyle, who is a doubtful commodity and the New York manager would like to have Kilduff back, especially as Al Demaree, for whom he traded Peterkin has gone so far back he is slated for the bush.

Oil City Again. President Duncan of the Oklahoma City club of the suspended Western association is quoted as saying he expects to see Oklahoma City in the Western league before July 4. And in Peoria it is expected the Illinois city may succeed Sioux City.

Duncan and the Peoria fans may have the correct dope, but at this writing it seems unlikely. The Western league as it is now composed of the most compact organization in the history of the league. Saving on railroad fares is large and all of the cities in the league have been more or less tested as to Class A ball.

Further, Sioux City and Hutchinson and Topeka, regarded as the weak links in the Western league chain, have been selling a large number of season tickets to insure location of clubs in these towns. Of course, it would be possible to move a team from any one of these cities should the other attendance fall off, but it is not likely in view of the season ticket sale.

There is no forgetting, however, what will happen in base ball—Oklahoma City may even take Omaha's place.

Dode Paskert Will Draw Clean-up Place for Cubs. Dope from Pasadena has it that Manager Mitchell has about decided to make Dode Paskert his clean-up man in the batting order for the Cubs. "Paskert is a smart man at the plate," said Mitchell. "He is also a great man on the hit and run. That is the type of player I need in the clean-up position."

There is a hope that Paskert will come through. If he fails it will be necessary for me to try some one else. He may not have as high an average as one or two of the other players, but I figure he can do more for the club in a pinch."

Yankees Now Have Four Eligibles for Clean-up Job. With the addition of Pratt and Bodie, the Yankees now have four players who have batted in clean-up positions. Pipp has been clean-up man for the Yankees, Baker for the Athletics and Pratt for the Browns. Athletic and Pratt both are right-handed hitters, who will give the Yanks a much better balanced batting lineup than last year.

OFFICIAL WESTERN LEAGUE SCHEDULE FOR SEASON 1918

Table with columns for JOPLIN, TOPEKA, HUTCHINSON, WICHITA, ST. JOSEPH, OMAHA, DES MOINES, and SIOUX CITY. Rows list dates and game times for each team.

Note: () Indicate Sundays.

ARMY DRAFT MAY MAKE HUGE GAPS IN BIG LEAGUES

Major Managers Fear Clubs Will Be Wrecked by Next Call for Men by Uncle Sam.

By JACK VEIOCK. New York, March 30.—Major league club owners are not at all sure of holding players within the draft-age until the close of the 1918 season.

With the next draft call liable to come during the month of April, men of draft age will be rushed to army cantonments just as fast as it is possible for the government to get them there, and as the boys in class IA are called there may be gaping holes in many a big league lineup by the first of July.

Such players as Benny Kauff, Al Mamaux, Ray Chapman, Red Faber, Grover Cleveland Alexander and George Burns may be wearing khaki instead of big league uniforms by mid-summer. And there is no underestimating the extent that the loss of their services would amount to.

Would Wreck Giants. Shooked the Giants lose Kauff, McGraw's outfield would be practically wrecked. Davey Robertson's determination to quit the game was a hard enough blow, but the dashing little centerfielder of Federal league fame would be missed even more than Robertson were he to go.

In the case of Ray Chapman, who may be taken from the Indians, his going would wreck Lee Fohl's infield. One of the best shortstops in the business, Chapman's presence on the Cleveland inner circle is imperative to give it balance. Without him the Indian infield would be like a boat without a rudder.

Chicago in Jeopardy. The White Sox could ill afford to lose the services of Red Faber, who is being depended on to win many games for them this season and should the Cubs lose Alexander his shoes could not possibly be filled.

While Al Mamaux is somewhat of an experiment for the Dodgers, Uncle Robby is counting heavily on him to come back and star as the headliner of the Brooklyn staff, so if he goes Brooklyn will suffer.

There are a good many other players whose status is not definite. Some of them could be spared well enough, but others are badly needed. So the magnate is getting ready to open the season without assurance that he can put a ball club in the field and keep it there. The magnates, however, are not weeping. They will stand any loss with a smile and consider that it adds to "their bit."

Johnny Farrell, Former Rourke and Ex-Fed, Dies. Johnny Farrell, who played several years in the old Nebraska State league and later was with the Omaha club and then the Chicago Federals, died the other day in Chicago from pneumonia. He was ill only five days.

Farrell was a star in the Nebraska State league. But when he landed in Omaha he failed to show anything at all and was cut adrift after a few weeks.

When the Federal league organized Farrell was one of the first to join. He played with the Feds when that circuit was little more than a minor. Then when the outlaws began to sign stars, Farrell clung to his job and soon was raised to a great second sacker. He was a fancy fielder, but a poor stickler.

Then when the Feds blew Johnny fell into another one of his slumps and showed positively nothing, just as he had done when he came to Omaha, and he soon faded from view. He was only 25 years old.

Snyder Passes Exam. Catcher Frank Snyder of the St. Louis Cardinals took the physical examination for the army at San Antonio the other day and was passed as 100 per cent perfect. He is in Class I-A of the draft and expects an early call.

Joe Stecher Threatened With Pneumonia; Matches Called Off. Joe Stecher, ex-wrestling champion of the world, is threatened with pneumonia. Upon advice of his physician he has called off all his matches.

Stecher was matched to meet one Steve Savage at Sioux City tomorrow night. Savage is supposed to be a savage guy, but he would be little more than a set-up for Joe. Even so, Stecher cancelled the bout.

The Dodge lad also was booked to meet John Olin or Ad Santel in Chicago, April 11, but this event, too, has been called off.

Just how serious Stecher's threatened illness is, is unknown. According to advices received here, Joe has not yet been stricken with pneumonia, but is threatened with the disease. That his physician regards the situation as at least critical is indicated by his insistence that Joe call off all his matches.

Some apprehension is felt that the threat might make good. In that case, it is feared Joe would be unable to wrestle for several months, owing to the weak condition the illness would leave him in.

Alex the Great Will Get \$20,000 This Year

Grover Cleveland Alexander, world's greatest pitcher and native of Nebraska, will receive \$20,000 from the Chicago Cubs this year.

Alexander has a holdover contract from the Phillies calling for \$12,000 for the 1918 season. Then he demanded \$10,000 as a bonus for signing with the Cubs.

By FRED S. HUNTER. JACK REYNOLDS is going to try to lure Wally Zee-biscuit into a Cedar Rapids wrestling ring while Charley Peters climbs in at the same time.

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Wielding the Hammer. By FRED S. HUNTER. JACK REYNOLDS is going to try to lure Wally Zee-biscuit into a Cedar Rapids wrestling ring while Charley Peters climbs in at the same time.

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EVANS, OUMET AND BARNES TO PLAY RED CROSS BENEFIT MATCH IN OMAHA

Field Club Starts Negotiations to Bring Greatest Golf Stars in Country to Gate City; To Make Tour of Country for Benefit of War Relief Organization

The golf committee of the Omaha Field club plans a treat for Omaha golf enthusiasts.

This summer, if plans now in the making are consummated, Chick Evans and Francis Ouimet, the two leading amateur golfers in America, and Jim Barnes and one other star professional player, will make a tour of the country in a series of matches for the benefit of the Red Cross.

That the four golf sharks will make the Red Cross tour is practically assured for last year Ouimet, Evans and one or two others, as individuals, appeared in benefit events and brought several thousand dollars into the Red Cross coffers.

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ROURKE TO JUMP BASE BALL CLUB TO MANAGE FARM

Omaha Magnate to Cultivate 900-Acre Colorado Farm; To Turn Team Over to Jackson.

William A. Rourke—farmer. That's the classification that threatens to unseat the old, familiar William A. Rourke—base ball magnate. For Pa Rourke is going back to the farm.

For many years Pa has been tied in the harness of the national pastime. A score of cities called him one of their own during his long playing career, and more than a hundred towns saw him hold down the hot corner at third base. Then he came to Omaha and for almost 20 years has owned the Omaha club in the Western league.

But after all these years Pa has felt the call of the open country, felt the lure of the unbound fields and he is going.

900 Acres. Out in Colorado is a farm of some 900 acres or so. Perhaps it's not a farm yet, but it's 900 acres anyhow. It belongs to Pa Rourke. And Pa is going to cultivate it.

Pa confesses two reasons for the "back to the land" stunt. In the first place the country needs the products that may come from that land. And in the second place Pa has a hunch he may need the revenue from the said farm, owing to the uncertainty of base ball this season.

Jackson to Run Club. Rourke now has 135 acres of the 900 under cultivation and he expects to cultivate the entire works as soon as possible. He intends to give the farm his personal attention, even though he finds it necessary to sacrifice time necessary for the ball club. He is instructing Bill Jackson, who will be playing manager, in the business methods of the club, with the intention of turning over a large share of this end of the club to the Peoria man.

Rourke probably will make no trips with the team at all this year—the first time in history—and he will be in Omaha only a part of the time the team is at home.

So the Rourkes will be almost completely under the rule of Bill Jackson, while Pa grasps a huc in his fist and starts in to manicure the landscape.

Guy Hoffman Refuses to Report to Houston Club. Guy Hoffman, former Omaha and Brandeis stores pitcher, believes he is a pitcher of Class AA caliber.

Hoffman was a member of Bill Jackson's hurling corps at Peoria last year. He led the three-I league pitchers and made a good record in the Central league.

Recently, Peoria sold Guy to Houston of the Texas league, but Hoffman has raised a protest, saying that he should be a free agent owing to the suspension of the league. He says that if given a chance he could land in Class AA company.

Hoffman pitched for Grand Island in the State league before coming to Omaha. Then later while making his home here he played on the Brandeis semi-pro team.

OMAHA TO OPEN WESTERN SEASON AT SIOUX CITY

Ten Sunday Games and Same Number of Saturday Combats Allotted to Rourketown in Schedule.

Omaha will open the 1918 league season at Sioux City, May 1, and close at St. Joseph, September 15, according to the playing schedule made public today by President E. W. Dickerson.

The Rourkes play May 1, 2 and 3 at Sioux City and then journey to Des Moines for games on May 4, 5, 6 and 7.

From Des Moines the local athletes return home to open the season here on May 8. Sioux City will be the attraction.

In Sunday and Saturday dates, the Rourkes are fortunate for they play at home on 10 Sunday and an equal number of Saturdays. They have 10 Sundays and nine Saturdays scheduled on the road.

One Holiday. Only one holiday has been allotted to Omaha, Memorial day, when two games with Joplin are scheduled.

On July 4 the Rourkes play two games at St. Joseph and on Labor day they are scheduled for a twin combat at Wichita.

In May, the first of the season, Omaha will be at home for 20 games. Starting May 8, nine games are carded for the home lot with Sioux City, Des Moines and St. Joseph in the order named scheduled to appear at the local lot.

Then a four-day journey to St. Joseph is taken, after which the Rourkes return home again for a series with Hutchinson, Wichita, Joplin and Topeka.

Only eight home games are scheduled during June. Des Moines comes for games June 18, 19, 20 and 21, and Sioux City for games June 22, 23 and 24. A double-header is scheduled for the last date.

July Heavy Month. July, however, is another heavy month with 16 games scheduled for Rourke park. They are with St. Joseph, Topeka, Joplin, Wichita and Hutchinson.

Des Moines, Joplin, Topeka, Hutchinson and Wichita all come in August. St. Joseph, Des Moines and Sioux City play September games in the Gate City with Sioux City the final attraction September 13 and 14, when the Rourkes close the year at home.

Phils Cancel Draft and Frisno Takes Player Back. The Philadelphia National league club, which asked the National commission to cancel its draft on Justin Fitzgerald because Fitzgerald would not sign the contract offered him, need not have gone to that trouble, for the San Francisco club says it will take the player back and gladly.



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We have just received a carload of new 1918 Indian models and can make immediate deliveries on any number in catalog.

OMAHA BICYCLE CO. "The Big Motorcycle Co." 323 North 16th St. Phone Douglas 3728.

Joe Stecher Threatened With Pneumonia; Matches Called Off

Joe Stecher, ex-wrestling champion of the world, is threatened with pneumonia. Upon advice of his physician he has called off all his matches.

Earl Smith Is Injured At Brown Training Camp

Earl Smith, former star left fielder for the Rourkes, who was sold to the St. Louis Browns last year, suffered an injury during practice at the St. Louis training camp and no longer occupies a position in the Brown lineup.

Yankees Now Have Four Eligibles for Clean-up Job

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