

ROURKES TO PLAY FIRST GAME TODAY

Omaha Western League Club Makes First Appearance of 1918 Season in Clash With Brandeis.

WESTERN LOOP PILOTS. Omaha—Bill Jackson. St. Joseph—Bert Daniels. Joplin—Rudy Hulswitt. Sioux City—Ducky Holmes. Des Moines—Jack Coffey. Topeka—Johnny Nee. Wichita—Joe Berger. Hutchinson—Otto Jacobs.

The Omaha Western league baseball club plays its first game of the year this afternoon. With the consent of the weather man the Rourkes will take the diamond this afternoon for a joust with the Brandeis stores, Fred Bradford's crack semi-pro nine.

PROMISE GOOD GAME. The Rourkes have been training only for one week and, as several of the athletes reported later, the team as a unit has really only had two days' practice.

Bellicose Bill probably will send his young hurlers in for mound duty against the semi-pros today so that the fans as well as himself can get a line on their abilities.

Bradford Hopeful. The Brandeis team has been practicing for three weeks and promises to give the Rourkes real competition. It has long been an ambition of Fred Bradford to hand the Omaha professionals a lacing and each year he hopes it is the year.

Swede Olson, who is just about a class pitcher, will be on the firing line for the semi-pros. Olson's wing is reported to be in great condition. He has been working out for several weeks, advancing by easy stages, so that now he feels in mid-season form.

Plan Military Day. Great plans are being made for the military program at Rourke park next Sunday. The Camp Dodge team, which will clash with the Rourkes in the main event, is composed exclusively of ex-professional and college stars.

Then Earl Caddock, heavyweight wrestling champion of the world, is to go on the mat a few minutes with a training partner, and Mike Gibbons, the St. Paul phantom, will perform a few boxing tricks with a partner.

Receipts Go to Camp. All of the receipts of the game will go to the Camp Dodge athletic fund. This is the way the Rourkes and Brandeis will lineup for action today:

Table listing players and their positions for the Rourke vs. Brandeis game.

NEBRASKA STATE NET TOURNEY TO BE HELD JULY 29

The annual Nebraska State Tennis Championship tournament will be staged starting July 29, according to a bulletin issued yesterday by the United States National Lawn Tennis association.

The location of the 1918 Nebraska tournament is as yet undetermined so the sanction for the event was issued to the Western Lawn Tennis association of which the Nebraska association is a member.

The Missouri Valley Championship tournament will be held this year at Kansas City. It starts August 19. It is probable a large number of Omaha tennis enthusiasts will attend and take part.

Another tournament of interest for Omaha fans is the Iowa state tourney which Will Adams of Omaha won one year. This event will be held just a week prior to the Missouri Valley, starting at Des Moines on April 12.

Name Is Changed. The Tomaneks of the Booster league have changed their name to the Parsley Commission Company.

FULTON PLAYS TO BLUEPRINT JESS WILLARD

Heavyweight Challenger Hikes for Bush to Get Inside Dope for July 4 Fight.

Chicago, April 13.—Now that Jess Willard and Fred Fulton are signed up for their battle July 4 for the heavyweight championship, talk and prediction regarding the scrap naturally turns to the capabilities, the weaknesses, etc., of the two men.

Blue-print Jess. "That's a mighty hard thing to say," said Mike. The plan of battle carefully laid out to-day may not be worth a whoop tomorrow. But I can tell you this. We are going to blueprint this big fellow from the top of his head to the soles of his feet before the day of battle.

Is an Old Stunt. "We've done this with other fighters all over the world," about and found it a mighty good thing. I can recommend it to any fighter who is going into an important match against an opponent that figures to be as good as he is himself."

And then Collins told of the great confidence Fulton has in this coming battle. Fred thinks Jess is a trifle too old and hasn't fought enough recent bouts to be at his best. He doesn't think Willard is looking particularly fit just now.

Western League Notes

Leo McDonald, a youngster who played in the St. Paul army, was reported to be given a trial with the St. Joseph Western league club.

St. Joseph has signed two shortstops. One is named Genner. He hails from Chicago. The other is Brubaker of the Cincinnati league.

Fischer Hogan, who was sent to Kansas City by the Giants, has been shipped in turn by the Blues to Joplin. Kansas City has sent Outfielder Pitt to Hutchinson. McGraw turned Pitt over to Kansas City.

Bill Inman, an Hawaiian who was with Sioux City three years ago, has caught on with St. Joseph.

Bert Nichols, former Rourke, has been traded by the Phils to the Cardinals for Pitcher Muta Watson. Bert, however, is a holdover.

Oak Henning, first sacker, who was with Omaha a few minutes last spring, has been drafted into the army. Oak reported at Dallas this spring, but had only worked out a few days before Uncle Sam summoned.

Denver base ball enthusiasts are trying to promote a six-club Colorado state league. It will be an independent organization with teams in Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Cheyenne, Greeley and one other city.

Krasy Kat Kikham, the celebrated Little Rock pitcher, was reported to be in the hands of the military.

Jack Kotselnick, a recruit pitcher, has been farmed to Sioux City by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Sioux City has signed Chick Farrell, an outfielder who played with Rochester in the International league last year. Eumick, a third sacker, was recruited from the Cleveland Americans.

The Worshipper: Copyright, 1918, International News Service. By Berndt



Wielding the Hammer

By FRED S. HUNTER. A RECENT fire in Cleveland destroyed all the season passes that were ready for distribution. Which must have been joyful news to the base ball bushwackers in the sixth city. But there is a suspicion the fire was a clever bit of camouflage; that the Cleveland club had decided to revise its free list.

Rajah Descends. HOW the world do move and times change. Roger-Bresnahan, we learn, is to depend upon Miller Huggins to fill the gaps in the Toledo team with Yankee discards. And only a short time ago Rajah would have suffered the loss of his throwing arm before he would consent to even speak to Miller Huggins let alone put himself under obligations to the Yank leader.

Why Not Admit It? Al Shean to play second base, say reports from the bean city. Why not admit that Johnny Evers is a dead one and be done with it?

Abandon Hope. PITTSBURGH is to have a boxing commission to look after the game in that city. But is the Pittsburgh boxing commission behave, like some other boxing commissions we could name offhand, the game will be likely to be in the hands of the corner soon.

Playing With Fire. THERE is a loud outcry in the east over the loud to start ball games this year. Club magnates, scribes and fans are getting all excited and hurling arguments around with the carelessness of a Pullman porter on the trail of a barber shop rival. All of which is much ado about nothing, unless the magnates are lucky there is likely to be no starting hour at all about July 4.

Alibi Ike. ALIBI Ike is always the handy guy in pugilistic circles. Jock Malone who the other day drew a beating from Byron Downey says the cagey Downey sprinkled talcum powder on the ring instead of rosin. We thought the last of the talcum powder fighters vanished when Freddie Welsh went on his way.

Cagey Connie. IT'S a great life if you don't weaken. For instance, it has been discovered Connie Mack really has a line-up to place upon the field tomorrow.

SCATTERED TO FOUR WINDS ARE ROURKES OF LAST YEAR

Only Three Veterans of 1917 Still Remain; All of Others Seek Fame in Distant Fields. Scattered to four winds are the Rourkes of yester-year. Of the score or more of athletes who at one time or another last year carried the banners of the gate city upon the Western league base ball diamonds, only three have signed 1918 contracts. The others are gone.

BIG LEAGUE CLUBS PRY LID OF 1918 SEASON THIS WEEK

American League to Marshal Forces for First Call of "Play Ball" With Two Games Monday; National to Start in Bunch Tuesday; Pennant Races Are Uncertain.

With many players missing, due to voluntary and draft enlistment into war service and standing change of uniform since the close of the 1917 season, the major leagues will open their annual pennant campaign this week under conditions which have not existed at any previous period in the history of the organizations.

The New York Nationals enter the 1918 pennant race with excellent prospects of being in the forefront of the flag struggle on the opening of the season. Failure to repeat the feat of winning the championship of the senior league again would be due not so much to loss of playing strength as the greater opposition offered by other clubs which have built up weak departments since the close of the 1917 campaign.

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Charley (Buck) Herzog will be missing at second base, having been traded to the Chicago Cubs, will again hold down the middle of the batting line.

In the opinion of a number of base ball experts, the sale of Alexander and Kilgus to the Chicago Cubs has put the Philadelphia Athletics out of the running for the 1918 pennant. Conceded to have been the mainstay of the club in its winning of the championship in 1916 and 1917, Alexander and Kilgus have left a big hole in the Phils that cannot be filled at this time.

Moran has combed the country for pitching articles but has been unable to make-up for any of the loss sustained in the sale of Alexander and Kilgus. Morf assumed the leadership of the New York Nationals, with its club personnel practically intact from last year, have entered the baseball pennant race determined to better their record of last season—third place in the National league contest.

The enlistment in the marines of Jack Miller, who had been chosen to succeed Miller Huggins as manager when the latter assumed the leadership of the New York Nationals, caused President Branch Rickey to cast about for a new manager. He settled upon Jack Hendricks, who had an enviable record in minor league base ball and who was under contract with Indianapolis in the American association, and finally secured his services.

Jack Miller, second baseman, and Marvin Goodwin, pitcher—the former in the marines and the latter in an aviation camp—are the only regulars now in military service. Betzel, who has been on the club several years, has been selected to fill Miller's place and, although his work is not equal to that of the star, Hendricks pronounces it "satisfactory." To bolster up the pitching staff, Sherdel was secured from Milwaukee in the American association, as was Robinson Little Rock, Ark., in the southern association.

Roger Hornby, temperamental shortstop, from his home in Texas, for several months refused to talk terms, and until the training season was a week under way declined to affix his signature to a contract. Hornby had been had been the central figure in numerous reported trades in which

WARTIME BALL UNDERGOES ACID TEST THIS YEAR

Magnates, Players and Fans Face Season of Uncertainty Owing to Strife Across the Water.

By JACK VELOCK. New York, April 13.—War-time base ball will undergo the acid test this season.

Next Tuesday the sixteen clubs of the two major leagues will face the barrier, cage, and ready to start battling for the honor of playing for the world's championship next fall, but they will start under vastly different conditions than they did one year ago.

Is base ball strong enough to survive? Is it rooted so firmly with the sport-loving public and so necessary as a form of recreation that it can sail along smoothly in these rather panicky war times? Only the playing out of the season will tell.

The popularity of the national game is best indicated by the success or failure of major league clubs in various parts of the country. Attendance at games in the big leagues is the barometer by which even minor league clubs can judge the sentiment of the masses.

All Optimistic. John K. Tener, president of the National league; Ban Johnson, czar of the American league, and Garry Herrman, chairman of the National Base Ball commission, have all gone on record with optimistic statements in sizing up the prospects for 1918. They believe in base ball and they see the necessity of keeping it afloat in order that it may not lose prestige.

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WESTERN LEAGUE TEAMS BEGIN TO TAKE REAL FORM

Every Club in League Starts Preliminary Practice; Wichita Even Plays a Game.

Western league teams are beginning to assume form as the call for spring training goes out. Every club in the league began preliminary training last week and this week the real grind of the spring preparatory session will get under way.

Many of the old familiar faces will be missing this year. Some of the veterans have passed upon their way; others have gone into the service of their country. Some of the clubs like Omaha, are almost entirely new. But here and there a number of the old-timers will be seen so that the Western will at least look like the same old league.

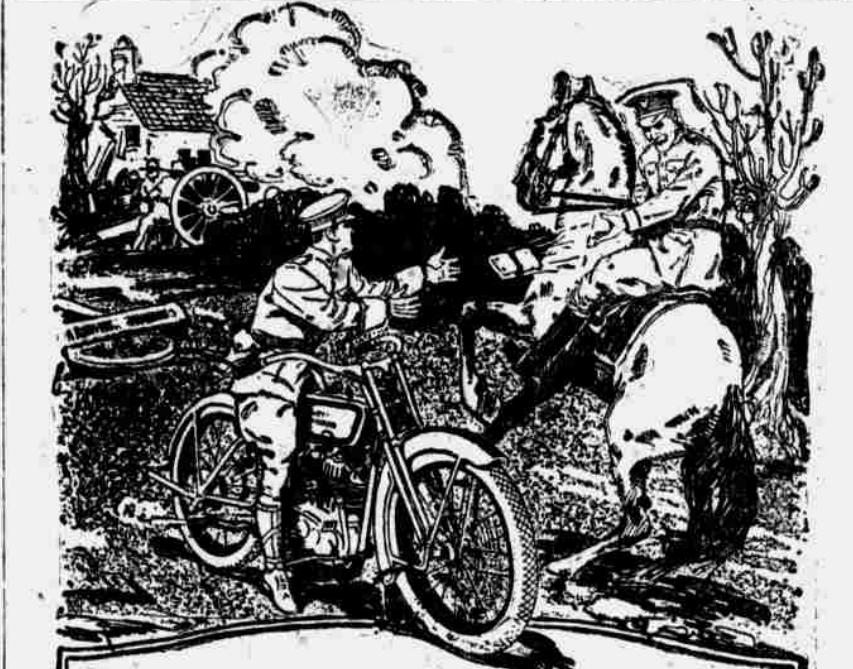
Wichita was the first club to begin training. Joe Berger will manage the Wolves again this season. He had eight rookies on the club April 1 and before most of the clubs had even attempted to start training, had played a ball game for the benefit of the Red Cross. Wichita looms strong this year. A body blow was dealt the club when Pep Goodwin went to war, but Isbell believes he has a man to more than fill his place.

Harry Spratt, new business manager, who will serve as head of the club while John Savage attends to Kansas City, is lining things up at Joplin. He and Rudy Hulswitt, the new playing manager, started spring practice last Monday. Joplin lost several players through sales and to the army, but still has a formidable looking aggregation.

Coffey at Des Moines. Des Moines still has the old reliable Jack Coffey at the helm and he has many of his players in the fold already. Jack is helping coach the Camp Dodge cantonment team, but he finds plenty of time to teach his own charges. The Boosters started practice early last week and by the last of the week were in full swing.

Ducky Holmes' Sioux City athletes did not report until late last week and will not get going in earnest until this week.

Topeka is one of the league's unknown quantities. Many old Denver players are on the roster and Spencer Abbott, the new magnate in the league, seems to have plenty of financial backing. He has signed a lot of new athletes and if they all deliver the Kaws will compose one of the strongest organizations in the loop. Johnny Nee, who was in the Central league last year, will manage Topeka.



'It's Up To You—Get Through'

Now for the test! Crouching low—sure, defiant—eyes that see but the goal at the end of the road—ears that hear but the thunder and roar of unleashed power—to stake all, to ask nothing—away.

Out over the scaped road beds, where unseen death lurks at every turn and rise, at every shell crater and bridge-head—rushing on, out of the day into the inky Flanders night—the dispatch rider speeds on his way.

Through at last—with the Harley-Davidson

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Through and safe, for the blood of young America flows in his veins—and, the steel he rode out of that inferno of destruction, the Harley-Davidson, is a steed worthy of the grandest traditions of Uncle Sam's service. If the Harley-Davidson can survive trials such as these, surely it is your safest choice.

Drop in today—swing into the saddle and try a spin over the roads—get acquainted with the machine which for 16 years has been the Master Mount. We will be glad to see you whether you buy or not.

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