

JOHN PESEK TO BATTLE BALKAN TERROR OF MAT

Campaign Which Has Championship as Objective Starts for Newest Nebraska Sensation Thursday Night.

A wrestling match of more than passing interest to Nebraska mat fans will be held in the auditorium at Lincoln Thursday night when John Pesek, the Buffalo county mat marvel, and Yussif Hussane, late of the Balkans and Omaha and now of New York, clash in what is expected to be Pesek's first step in a campaign for titular laurels.

Two weeks ago Martin Slattery of Shelton, Pesek's manager, hurled a sweeping challenge which included any wrestler in the world. It was Pesek's first move to gain more than local prominence. For nearly two years the canny Slattery had been grooming Pesek. He sent Pesek into the ring in 40 professional matches, but every match was in a small town and with opponents whose renown was less than their abilities.

Then, finally, Slattery was satisfied Pesek was championship timber. And he blew of the lid.

Exhibited Cash. The Slattery challenge barred nobody and went clear up to the top to Earl Caddock, the reigning champion. Slattery offered to match Pesek against Caddock or anybody else for \$10,000. He said he might stretch this sum even to \$15,000.

The wrestling world began to take notice. Nebraska fans knew that Pesek was the goods and for several months predictions that Pesek would be the next champion have been heard. But it wasn't until Slattery made his challenge that the outside world discovered Pesek.

Hussane is expected to act as a barbed wire to check the Pesek offensive. He is being sent out from New York by Jack Curley to eliminate this intruder from the west who is threatening to knock certain well laid wrestling plans into a cocked hat.

Hussane Defensive Star. Hussane is a top-notch wrestler. He has ceased to be the swift, offensive grappler that he was in the days he made Omaha his headquarters, but he has become a wonderful defensive man. He has the strength and the stamina and the knowledge of all the tricks.

Few wrestlers possess greater defensive prowess than Hussane and if Pesek bowls over this Balkan terror in decisive fashion he need have no doubt about his ability to tackle any of the big fellows.

Pesek has been training carefully for his match. It presents a crucial moment for him. To stumble now would be ruin. He must beat Hussane and beat him decisively. Then he can continue his campaign with renewed vigor. Defeat would mean that he would have to start all over again.

Mat fans from all over the state expect to go to Lincoln to see the Thursday night fray. They will see Pesek make the start of his big offensive. Quite a bunch from Omaha who have thought Slattery was grooming something under cover ever since they saw the 20-minute Pesek-Londos prelim here a little more than a year ago expect to take in the event at Lincoln. Several Chicago wrestling experts and fans are coming out to give this newest Nebraska sensation the visual forward and back and Jack Curley is coming all the way from New York.

American League.

TEAM BATTING. AB. R. H. ER. P. SH. SB. Put. Cleveland 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 St. Louis 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 New York 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 Detroit 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 Boston 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 Washington 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 Chicago 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285 Philadelphia 302 45 41 86 102 14 3 285

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INDIVIDUAL BATTING. AB. R. H. ER. Put. Vitt, Detroit 9 1 5 1 2 .556 Speaker, Cleveland 15 8 3 0 4 .444 Spahr, St. Louis 25 4 11 0 3 .440 Gansell, Chicago 9 2 1 0 1 .222

INDIVIDUAL FIELDING. DP. PO. A. E. Put. Paine, St. Louis 13 2 1 0 .618 Stock, Philadelphia 23 2 11 1 .494 Doyle, New York 22 3 10 1 .523 Baneroff, Philadelphia 22 3 10 1 .523

PITCHING RECORD. G. W. L. P. R. H. BB. SO. Murrice, N. Y. 3 0 1000 7 16 2 1 Bush, Boston 2 0 1000 7 9 9 6 C. Coveleski, Cleveland 2 0 1000 7 7 4 2

Red Styles, Sprinter; A Story of His Speed

Red Styles, former Rourke hurler and citizen of Omaha, is some sprinter-up and down. Here's a story the Brandeis players tell on Red.

When the Brandeis played Sioux City at Sioux City last Sunday, Red caught one on the nose and hit it a mile. It went up against the fence. Red started to sprint. As he rounded first he shot a look toward centerfield. The outfielder was chasing the ball and was still some distance away. Red kept on running, rounded second and continued to third. He was thrown out 20 feet.

"Why did you try to make third?" shrieked Fred Bradford when Styles returned to the bench. "Well," drawled Styles. "When I rounded first that outfielder was as far from the ball as I was from third and I couldn't see where he had a chance to throw me out with my speed."

RAIN AND MUD NO CHECK TO ARDENT SANDLOT STARS

Insist on Playing Games Despite Arbitrary Antics of Weather Man; Four Go to Funston.

By FRANK QUIGLEY.

It is a double-barreled cinch that the pill hoisters hereabouts would make good soldiers to shank it through the muddy fields over there, and said statement is backed up by their actions of last Sunday. Apparently all of the teams wanted to play regardless of climatic conditions. The various diamonds were well soaked the day before and the cool atmosphere Sunday morning made a fellow feel more like attacking around the old freestone than shivering on a ball lot, but notwithstanding the disagreeable weather the local base ballists wanted to display their wares. Out of 16 games scheduled, eight were played and one forfeited. Fellows with the nerve to swim around in mud in Omaha would make ideal gents to go through most anything to slip the kaiser a package.

A special meeting of the directors was held last Thursday night, the purpose of which was to extend a farewell to Walter Nelson, one of the directors, who was called to the colors last Friday. For some unknown reason Nelson failed to anchor at said meeting so the ceremony was relegated to the graveyard. Walter Nelson has been a director of the association for two years and he had started on the third term. He was president of the Metropolitan league in 1916. He was a capable and competent officer and it is the wish of the association that his ability last his somewhere among the higher ups during his service with Uncle Sam.

Not Regular Game. According to the supervisors of the K. & M's the debate between the Dreshers and the K. & M's last Sunday was simply a practice game, consequently the official figures will be changed, as said bout was counted as a regular battle. To date the leader of the Dreshers has not been heard from. He might fork over a different story.

When the American league opened the gates three weeks ago today the Florence Merchants and Trimble Bros. collided, with the result that the north end chaps snagged the long end of a 5-to-2 score. A few minutes before the game started only eight of the Merchants were on deck, so the Florence manager signed an agreement to play the game and forfeit same to the fruit vendors, but just as the gong sounded the tardy member marched on the field. The Florence manager forgot to sign the paper he had signed and the game was credited to the Trimble Bros. This contest was legitimate and they will receive credit for same. It is up to the Trimble Bros. to protest.

Claim Disallowed. The Homesteads claim a forfeited game booked with the Ramblers last Sunday at Miller park, 1:30 p. m. Because President Isaacson cancelled the game and the Ramblers did not show up for the 1:30 p. m. games, said forfeit could not be allowed. Of course, some of the boys counted in the standings. For this game all the members of both teams showed up and it was agreed for it to be counted as a regular league contest.

Tomorrow the Armour's will try their luck against the Jacksonville crew at Rourke park, and next Sunday, their day off in the Greater Omaha league, they will play the amateur champions of Lincoln at Lincoln.

Classy Games Today. In the major league of the Omaha Amateur Base Ball association a jangle that should make the heart of a fan flap like a butterfly is anticipated by the followers of the Murphy-Dit-Lits and Beslins. These two teams will hook up at Luxus park at 3:30 p. m. Red Styles or Earl Hasen will have the horsehide for the cabbage leaf dudes and in all probability Potach will be on the firing line for the blacksmiths.

Several former diamond lights joined the parade headed Funston ward last Friday, the most promising of which were Joe Hollander, Sol Novitsky, Millard Durkee and Walter Nelson. Joe Hollander played last year with the Woodmen of the World, Sol Novitsky worked at corner one for the Brandeis Stores, Millard Durkee was formerly a star at sack three for the Brandeis Stores and Walter Nelson was a director of the Omaha Amateur Base Ball association.

Although Mr. Gantz of the Walter G. Clark's utilized all his stored-up energy to keep his team above water he led and his athletes found a watery grave. This franchise is open to any team of a Class B caliber that wishes to ring in with two games tabulated on the debit side of the register. At present the City league will loop the loop with five teams. It will be necessary for one team to lay off each Sunday. Teams wishing games with the off team should communicate with Frank Jacobs over Colfax 1126.

Four New Members of Rourke Family Who are Expected to Make Omaha Pennant Contender in Western This Year



Wielding the Hammer

By FRED S. HUNTER. WHEN Colonel Miller first announced that the Twin Cities were to be the scene of the quarrel between Jazzy Jessy and Fretful Freddy, we unconsciously and unwittingly stamped Minneapolis as the decayed hen fruit. We wish to apologize. Judging from reports emanating from the scene of the three-thousand-a-minute hostilities, St. Paul regards the event purely in the light of a township brawl and Minneapolis is vindicated.

AMES CAPTURES FOUR-MILE RACE AT PENN RELAY

Iowa State College Athletes Bring Home Bacon in Long Event; Missouri and Kansas Men Win.

Philadelphia, April 27.—The national relay championships of America, the blue ribbon events of the University of Pennsylvania's annual carnival of sports, were well distributed around the country today, Pittsburgh University winning the one mile title, Massachusetts institute of Technology the two mile race and Iowa State college the four mile run.

The summaries: Broad Jump—Won by Johnson, Michigan, 32 feet 9 1/2 inches; second, Sylvester, Missouri; third, Pflaey, Princeton. Shot Put—Won by Sinclair, Princeton, 43 feet 9 1/2 inches; second, Cleveland, Princeton; third, Halsey, Princeton. Discus Throw—Won by Sutherland, Pittsburgh, 132 feet 11 inches; second, Georgian, Chicago; third, Barrels, Penna. High Jump—Won by Rice, Kansas, 4 feet 11 1/2 inches; second, Parry, New York university; third, the between Jeffries, Pennsylvania State; Hughes, Pittsburgh, and Roberts, Stevens Institute. Pole Vault—Won by Myers, Dartmouth, 12 feet; second, Bullock, Pennsylvania; third, Grison, Cornell. 120 Yard Hurdle on Grass, Final—Won by Erdman, Princeton; second, Johnson, Michigan; third, Smith, Cornell. Time, 15 3/5 seconds.

100-Yard Dash, Final—Won by Scholz, Missouri; second, Gansmeyer, Pennsylvania State; third, Brown, Princeton. Time, 10 seconds. Two-mile College Relay Championship of America—Won by Massachusetts Tech; second, Chicago; third, Pennsylvania, Time, 3:19 2/5. Kenzie, Richmond, the world's greatest deliver, the goods in the best show. Kenzie, Richmond, the world's greatest deliver, is back in the Western league. Little Rock has sold him to St. Joseph, where he played before the White Sox gave him a trial.

Ernie Krueger, former Omaha catcher, now with Brooklyn, tried to enlist in the aviation corps, but for some reason or other was turned down. He is in Class 2 of the draft. Mack Allison, who tried to earn a berth on the Rourke pitching staff two years ago, but couldn't make the grade, has prevailed upon Ducky Holmes to give him a chance at Sioux City.

The cup presented by Governor Arthur Capper of Kansas for the best opening day attendance will be hung up again this year. Omaha captured it two years ago and last year Wichita was the winner. Cy Fereby has been benched by the Sacramento club. Despite much slugging during the training season, Cyvra hasn't made a real hit since the cost league opened, which led to the benching move. Ed Pa Rourke got \$200 for Cy.

Western League News Notes

Wichita has lost Lefty Miller, pitcher. The draft call got him. St. Joseph will play a benefit game with the Fort Leavenworth adder team, May 5. Tex Crosby, St. Joseph catcher and former Rourke, is slated to go to war before long. "Runt" Marr, former Topeka infielder and last year's batting champion, has been signed by St. Joseph. He is expected to be the regular at second base. Kallio, star of the best opening day attendance will be hung up with Detroit. Jennings believes the Western league will deliver the goods in the best show. Kenzie, Richmond, the world's greatest deliver, is back in the Western league. Little Rock has sold him to St. Joseph, where he played before the White Sox gave him a trial. Ernie Krueger, former Omaha catcher, now with Brooklyn, tried to enlist in the aviation corps, but for some reason or other was turned down. He is in Class 2 of the draft. Mack Allison, who tried to earn a berth on the Rourke pitching staff two years ago, but couldn't make the grade, has prevailed upon Ducky Holmes to give him a chance at Sioux City. The cup presented by Governor Arthur Capper of Kansas for the best opening day attendance will be hung up again this year. Omaha captured it two years ago and last year Wichita was the winner. Cy Fereby has been benched by the Sacramento club. Despite much slugging during the training season, Cyvra hasn't made a real hit since the cost league opened, which led to the benching move. Ed Pa Rourke got \$200 for Cy.

WESTERN LOOP PRIES OFF LID ON WEDNESDAY

Omaha Starts 1918 Season at Sioux City; Returns Home May 8; Many Changes in League.

Omaha at Sioux City Joplin at Topeka, Hutchinson at Wichita, St. Joseph at Des Moines.

The Western league will pry the lid off the base ball season Wednesday. For the first time in its history the Western circuit starts its campaign after the month of April has been torn from the calendar.

Sioux City Topeka, Wichita and Des Moines are the cities which will open the season at home. The other cities play their first home games on May 8.

Omaha opens the season at Sioux City. The Rourkes appear in Ducky Holmes' new stamping ground Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturday they hike to Des Moines for a four-game series with Jack Coffey's Boosters.

Joplin opens at Topeka, Hutchinson at Wichita and St. Joseph at Des Moines.

Order Reversed. Then on May 8 the order is reversed. Omaha opens the season at Omaha with Sioux City. Topeka goes to Joplin, Wichita to Hutchinson and Des Moines to St. Joseph.

Celebrations of various kinds will mark the opening games at practically all points. At some cities military programs have been arranged; at others the usual opening day parades and ceremonies will be held.

Western league club owners will open the season Wednesday moderately optimistic over the prospects for a successful year, but they will nevertheless be prepared to advance with care and caution. What prospect 1918 holds for them no one can tell.

In some circles little hope is held out, in other a spirit of optimism prevails. The Western leaguers will rest content to let the course of events shape themselves and act accordingly as they occur. All, however, are careful to make no false moves or assume unnecessary risks in case the Western league ship should run into the rocks before navigation closes next fall.

Many changes in teams have been made since last year. Two cities which were in the league all last year are not represented this season. They are Denver and Lincoln. Topeka, out of the league last year, has taken over the Denver franchise. Sioux City has captured the Lincoln club.

Five teams will have new managers. They are Omaha, Bill Jackson; St. Joseph, Bert Daniels; Joplin, Rudy Hulswitt; Topeka, Johnny Nee; Sioux City, Fred Hunter. Jack Coffey holds over at Des Moines and Joe Berger at Wichita and Jack Holland will continue to direct the destinies of Hutchinson himself.

Many of the old familiar faces will be gone this year. The league has taken over at least a dozen new players as old ones and in several instances more. Such old veterans as Larry Spahr, Art Ewald, Ty Lobber, Shag Thompson, Marty Krug, Tex Jones, Eddie Hahn, Grover Butcher and Jack Halla will be among the missing.

It will be a strange year in many ways, but for the Western league and the country in which it is located, let it be said the league will open Wednesday; it is keeping up the fight.

National League.

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PLESTINA HURLS MORE GAS BOMBS INTO MAT RANKS

Offers to Wrestle Caddock and Stecher or Lewis and Zbyszko in Same Ring on Same Night.

An offer to wrestle Earl Caddock and Joe Stecher in the same ring on the same night, one fall each, or Wladek Zbyszko and Strangler Lewis under the same conditions, is the latest gas bomb Marin Plestina, the huge Slav who for two years made Omaha his home, has hurled into the wrestling ranks.

Marin fired this 14-inch shell in New York, where he now is waging a campaign of ruthless warfare in an effort to get somebody to tackle him in a ring. But Marin was not content merely to offer to battle two homecrushers on the same night, but he followed up this onslaught with another terrific offensive which at least bowled over the barbed wire. He offers in the event he wins to donate all of the gate to the army and navy athletic funds. And in case he loses, he will donate \$1,000 out of his own pocket.

This isn't the only offer Plestina has made. He has offered to meet any man in the world on a winner-take-all basis, or any other basis, or for the benefit of the Red Cross or any war charity. Also he has offered to throw Earl Caddock or Wladek Zbyszko in 90 minutes or forfeit his share of the gate. In other words he'll wrestle any way anybody wants to wrestle.

J. C. Marsh, Plestina's manager, also is getting into the public prints in New York with monotonous regularity. Marsh openly accuses several of the top-line wrestlers of the country of combining in a wrestler's trust which has become so powerful that practically all of the wrestlers in the east obey orders implicitly for fear of being placed on the blacklist. No wrestler, Marsh declares, can get a match in New York unless he agrees to do the bidding of the alleged "trust."

Plestina's only matches in New York have been war benefits staged at athletic clubs. And in each match Plestina has signed to appear against any opponent. "Pick any man in the world," is the word Plestina has given the athletic club officials in each case.

Plestina will be in Omaha the first of next month. He is headed for San Francisco where he expects to remain for a month. Then he probably will return to Omaha to pass the summer months here.

Twelve Municipal Tennis Courts for Omaha This Year

Twelve municipal tennis courts will soon be ready for play. Three courts at Miller park and two at Riverview already are in condition and the remaining seven soon will be. Tennis is becoming a popular sport at the municipal parks.

BASE BALL HOLDS FANS' INTEREST IN SPITE OF WAR

Public Demands Its Recreation Hour Even in Times of Trouble, and National Pastime Is Needed.

By JACK VEIQCK. New York, April 27.—The public is keeping an interested eye on base ball in spite of the war.

The great game of hunting the Hun takes precedence over everything else, yet base ball is holding its own, and from present indications the major leagues are not going to fare so badly. Turnouts in the big league towns for the opening of the season were gratifying to the club owners. The fans flocked to the parks in numbers that compared favorably with other years, and with a prospect of close races in both leagues there is no reason to believe that patronage will not continue to be good.

The optimistic view expressed by President John K. Tener of the National league regarding the status of war-time base ball is proving true. No matter how heavy the burdens of war may be the real American must have his hour of recreation now and then. He is not content to sit around and mope, and although his greatest interest may be centered in the conflict in France, he will freshen his system with a diverting tonic now and then.

As President Tener so aptly said, base ball is one of the best war-time tonics to be found anywhere, and base ball, like practically every other business, is too firmly established to close down because of the conflict abroad.

Lewis in Trouble. Ted Lewis, the welterweight champion, ran into a pretty rough citizen the other night, when he met Joe Egan of Boston, in a 10-round bout at Milwaukee.

Although Egan stayed the limit with Lewis and consensus of opinion gave Ted the advantage at the end of 10 rounds, the king of the welters knew he had been in a baffling contest. Egan, it is said, came close to showing Ted a brilliant view of the solar system in the fifth round, but Lewis came back gamely and offset the advantage Egan had gained over him.

\$800 Added Money at Trap Shoot at Chappell May 10

One of the largest trap shooting tournaments ever held in Nebraska outside of Omaha will be staged at Chappell May 10 and 11. The shoot will be a registered "Old Policy" event, under the auspices of the Chappell Gun club. The Chappell Gun club has added \$800, the largest amount of added money at any shoot in Nebraska except the Western handicap at Omaha, when \$1,000 was added, for the shoot, which is expected to attract marksmen from many points. John R. Wertz is secretary of the Chappell club.