SPORTING COMMENT.

News and Views on Current Topics, Amateur and Professional.

There will be more than the usual activity in sporting circles this week. The swimming and water polo championships, the indoor lawn tennis championship, the Sportsman's and Power Boat Show, and numerous other features of less importance will serve to furnish plenty of entertainment. The aquatic carnival arranged by the New-York Athletic Club for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday in its big natatorium, and held under the auspices of the Amateur Athletic Union, will be the most important fixture of its kind ever held in the United States. In the past the national swimming championships have been confined largely to local contestants, but this week practically every prominent swimmer in the country will be on hand to settle once and for all the much mooted question of supremacy. The meeting of Daniels, of New-York; Handy, of Chicago; Schwartz, of St. Louis; Leary, of San Francisco, and MacCormack, of Boston, will be worth going far to see, to say nothing of such cracks as Ruberl, Spencer, Trubenbach and Kitching. Twelve championships will be decided, with several handicaps and a number of water polo games. The annual tournament for the indoor lawn tennis championship will be held on the board courts of the 7th Regiment Armory. E. B. Dewhurst, the clever Australian player, won the title last year. A good entry has been made this year, and some interesting sport is in prospect. The Sportsman's and Power Boat Show will be held as usual in Madison Square Garden, beginning to-morrow. The baseball schedules, the national championship golf dates, the legislation looking to the improvement of the trotting turf and college athletics, were the important happenings last week as a forerunner to the outdoor season, now close at hand, while the national skating championships, in which Wood again earned the honors, the winning by Harvard of the intercollegiate hockey championship and the dog show were other features of the week. The thirtieth annual bench show of the Westminster Kennel Club has gone down into dog history as the best ever held in this or any other country. It was a success from first to last.

GOLF.

Now that the courses and dates for the national golf championships have been announced the sectional associations and various clubs which are planning to hold open tournaments can make their plans for the season. From now on announcements will probably come thick and fast, as there is promise of more activity this year than ever before in the history of the sport in this country. The selection of the courses for the national championships has met with the approval of golfers, as a rule. The choice of the Englewood Golf Club links for the amateur is a particularly good one, as the course, when the improvements which are planned are completed, will be quite up to championship requirements in every respect. Further than that, it is well known to many metropolitan players and is near New-York and easy of access. Opportunities will be offered to golfers to practise on the course and so familiarize themselves with it. It is a course which needs some study if one hopes to make a score that will be worth anything on the all important day. The open championship will be held first this year, and this is well. The dates—June 28 and 29—might have been even a little earlier. As pointed out at the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association the title of open champion won in the spring is worth double a similar honor won in the fall as a trade asset to a professional. The season is closing then and by the next spring the general public have all but forgotten who the open champion is. A victory in the early summer when the season is at its height makes it possible for the victor to arrange for a round of matches which will prove profitable to him, while having an educational value as well for the rank and file of golfers. Walter J. Travis made a plea at the same time for June dates for the amateur fixture, but the executive committee probably acted wisely in setting July dates. At that time any and all golfers can take part if so inclined, while in June some of the college players might be prevented from entering. It is the purpose to have the amateur as representative as possible and to that end the dates were named.

Walter J. Travis has plainly taken a new lease of golfing life. His performance in winning the open championship of Florida on Friday was worthy of more than passing comment. He met and defeated some of the best professionals of this country and Great Britain, and his card was particularly creditable. He played in his old time form, which won for him the amateur championship of this country several times, and even the amateur championship of Great Britain. He has begun the year well, and if he holds his form it is not unlikely that he will regain his lost title at Englewood in July.

AUTOMOBILING.

It seems unfortunate, as Dave Hennen Morris, president of the Automobile Club of America, said last week, that two sets of persons having the same end in view should work at such cross purposes and be so diametrically opposed as seems to be the case in the matter of pending automobile legislation both in this State and in New-Jersey. The automobilists, both individually and as clubs and associations, are constantly at war with those who justly protest against the misuse of the machines on the public highways. There is apparently no good reason why a measure acceptable to both could not be framed which would accomplish the purpose for which all are aiming—the suppression of the "road hog," so called. The utterly selfish, or incompetent, or reckless persons who are a distinct menace on the roads and bring discredit on automobilists as a class should be, or better, must be, legislated against. The average man who owns or runs a car is quite as anxious for this as the man who does not own a car, but who must use the highways in the course of his business or pleasure. There is need for stringent laws on the subject, but no necessity for drastic legislation which would unreasonably restrict or unjustly burden automobile drivers as a class. The bill which is causing so much controversy in New-Jersey, and which will have another hearing to-morrow at Trenton, has many good points and some bad ones. It has plenty of supporters who have advanced strong arguments in its favor. It has many opponents who have and will present telling arguments against it. It will probably end in a fair and impartial law being passed, an end which could have been reached without all the hue and cry and general mudslinging. The bill offered by Assemblyman Stanley in Albany a few days ago has already caused a "howl" in some quarters, more apparently on general principles than for any good and sufficient reason. As has been explained, the law committee of the Automobile Club of America and the West End Association agreed on its provisions in the main, and while the governors of the club tabled it without taking any action and are in no sense behind it for reasons which seemed good to them, it cannot be forgotten that the measure was practically framed by automobilists who realized the needs and who were well qualified to suggest ways and means to correct existing abuses. Why, then, should automobilists make strenuous objection to its passage when their interests and the interests of automobiling are the first considered?

It seems as if that clause which provides for the appointment of a State commission, to have general supervision of the subject, is a particularly wise and good one, and yet this clause is being chiefly condemned. The State Racing Commission has done much for the proper control of thoroughbred racing in the State. Why, then, should not a State motor vehicle commission do as much if not more for automobiling? It is said that the commission would be a cumbersome and costly one and a burden to the State even though its members would serve without compensation. It is pointed out, however, that if the commission was made up of men of standing, as would surely be the case, the expense would be none too great for the good accomplished, and it would in no sense be a means for graft, which the opponents of the measure seem to fear. Under the law the automobilists pay thousands of dollars into the State treasury. The bill provides that all fines under the act shall also go into the general funds of the State. It does not seem unreasonable, then, that a certain amount of that money be paid out again for the control of automobiling and the protection of the State highways and those that use them, whether they be motor drivers, other vehicle drivers, or pedestrians.

TROTTING AND PACING.

Much was done by the congress of the National Trotting Association on Wednesday for the betterment of the light harness turf. Enough was accomplished to insure better racing, better control and better government. The demand for some reforms along certain lines were not only listened to but acted on, and there will be less opportunity in the future for scandals to arise, which work so much harm. If the stewards of the Grand Circuit would only take the same strong initiative the sport this year could and would be placed on a higher plane than ever before. The most important changes, and those which will accomplish the most lasting good, were the appointment of licensed starters to act as general supervisors of a meeting and watch out for any irregularities; the barring of the wind shield, thus avoiding confusion in the records; providing a heavy penalty for changing hopples during the progress of a race for the purpose of fraud; curtailing the privileges of so-called record making meetings; forbidding expelled, suspended and disqualified persons from all privileges and participation in harness meetings, and providing that records made by horses will be considered a bar unless made in a race started by a licensed starter. The new rules were made to correct evils which have served to keep the trotting turf in more or less of a ferment for the last three years. That they will accomplish the purpose in the main seems assured. If not, however, more drastic changes can be made another year, as the powers that be have now shown a laudable desire to correct abuses and to make progress.

ELIGIBILITY CODES.

A long step has been taken in the right direction by the athletic authorities of Yale, Harvard and Princeton by the proposed changes in the eligibility rules, which will bar all freshmen and members of the professional schools from the 'varsity athletic teams. This will put an end for all time to proselyting, one of the worst athletic abuses, which has reached an exaggerated state in the last few years. Pennsylvania has also adopted a new, short and simple code, which bars first year men from taking part in 'varsity athletics, and Cornell is likely to follow suit, as at a recent meeting of the Alumni Football Association a resolution favoring this plan was adopted. There has been a great and crying need for reform in this particular line, and one of the chief evils which has beset football has been done away with. On general principles, it does not seem right that any men in a college or university should be legislated against and prevented from representing their alma mater if by their skill or ability they were deserving of a place on a 'varsity team, but if all will not play fair the innocent must suffer with the guilty for the general good. Much has been accomplished, but there is still room for more reform along the lines which the conference of the "big nine" in the West suggested, looking to the abolition of professional coaches. It is not likely that this will be accomplished at the present time, either here or in the West, but it must come eventually, and when it does it will be bound to make for good. In a long and exhaustive report by the Harvard athletic committee a few days ago the following pertinent paragraph appeared anent this subject, which shows, perhaps, the way the wind is blowing:

> The Harvard Athletic Committee has believed, and still believes, not that there is anything bad itself in a student's taking athletic lessons from a regular teacher, nor that the teacher's influence is necessarily an unfortunate one, but they hold strongly that winning is not the only or even the chief object of sport, and that the spirit of the best kind of amateur—that of sport for sport's sake—inevitably suffers under a system where each team is made up of the obedient tools of a highly paid professional. Under such a system, contests tend to degenerate into the triumph of this or that coach. The committee is also convinced that the paying of great sums of money to men who instruct our youths in what should be not their work but their play tends to vitiate the opinion not only of the student body, but of the whole community, as to what is of real importance in a college training and in the education of a young man.

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL.

All is peace and harmony in the professional baseball world. The two major leagues met last week and made a few minor changes in the rules and adopted the playing schedules for the season. It did not seem wise to the majority of the members of the rules committee to make any change in the foul strike rule. This is cause for regret, as the modification proposed by Clark Griffith, of the Highlanders, or that suggested by Fred Knowles, of the Giants, would have unquestionably improved the batting averages and made the game more interesting for the spectators. A modification of this rule is almost sure to come in time, and it is too bad that it was postponed. The changes made were good ones, even if they were of a minor nature. That which makes the umpire the sole judge of the proper condition of the grounds for resuming play after a game has been stopped because of rain is a particularly good one. A home club cannot now play the baby act and refuse to go on if by chance it might seem to its advantage to have the game stopped. The rule which gives more power to the umpire in the control of the players of the team at the bat when they insist on bunting is also right and proper, and is a decided improvement. The schedules are satisfactory, in that there are no more conflicting dates than could possibly be avoided. The few that there are will not make any particular difference in the long run, and the interests of both leagues have been conserved as far as possible. All things considered, the coming season promises to be one of the best in the history of the sport and a profitable one to all the clubs in both leagues.

HOCKEY.

With only two more games to be played in the Amateur Hockey League championship series interest runs high. The race for the title has never been so close, never so hard fought. Surprises have followed each other until one has been at a loss to explain them. As a matter of fact the teams have been particularly well matched, even the Hockey Club of New-York showing a flash of championship form at times. Three teams are now tied for first place, and in all probability a postseason game will have to be played to settle the question of supremacy. If the New-York Athletic Club defeats the Hockey Club on February 27, that seven and the winner of the St. Nicholas-Crescent game on Thursday will be tied. The last named game is the only one scheduled this week, and on it much depends, as it may decide the title in case the Mercury Foot team should be beaten in the last game of the series. Because the St. Nicks were beaten by the Hockey Club last week does not mean that the Crescents will have an easy time on Thursday, although they are now favorites. The Half Moon seven was beaten by St. Nicholas once this season, and the coming game is in no sense a foregone conclusion. In beating the New-York Athletic Club last week the Crescent team showed a return to its best form. Best of all, the game, while being close and needing an extra period to decide, was clean and free from any unnecessary roughness. The defeat of St. Nicholas by the Hockey Club was a distinct surprise, but in point of fact the St. Nicks deserved defeat, as the team did not play the kind of hockey it was capable of and took a decided slump.

Harvard retained the intercollegiate championship in defeating Yale on Saturday, but only after the hardest kind of a fight. After four extra periods had been played and the game was still a tie, it began to look as if the sevens might have to play all night to reach a decision. It was all over in the fifth extra period, however, with Harvard getting the title for the fourth consecutive time and Yale sharing the honors of the season. In spite of the open winter and the lack of ice for practice, the season has been a most sucessful one and the sport has prospered.

Yachtsmen have expressed general satisfaction that the labors of the sub-committee of the Atlantic coast conference are at an end, and that the long wished for uniform rules of rating and classification are now established. The work, which has been accomplished by men peculiarly fitted for the task, has not been done hurriedly, but step by step, and after mature deliberation and by the comparison of data collected from nearly two seasons of racing. The result of these deliberations will doubtless be, that the rules adopted by the conference will be incorporated in the books of the various clubs, so that designers of yachts, knowing that the rule will fit all the clubs, have only to produce a yacht conforming to them. The owner, too, will feel greater confidence, and he will receive added encouragement to enter his boat, knowing that his opportunities of winning—provided his boat is properly sailed—will be greater than before. As a net result, racing in all the classes will be more popular than ever, and the season of 1906 should be highly successful from a racing standpoint.

COLUMBIA TRACK TEAM.

Prospects Are Not Bright at Morningside Heights This Spring.

Track prospects at Columbia are not brilliant this year. In the early part of the season the team was severely handicapped by the lack of a trainer, and little work was done. Now, with the advent of Josh Crooks, work has begun in earnest to get in condition for the outdoor spring meets, but the material at hand is poor.

The biggest loss which the team has sustained is that of W. R. Knackal, who has pneumonia and will in all probability be unable to run at all this spring. He was the fastest sprinter on the team, having a record of 10 seconds in the 100-yard run. The other men left in the sprints are G. H. Bull, Leo Leventritt and Jake Walz. Walz is a former Cornell man, credited with 10 1-5 seconds, while Leventritt, who did not run last year because of a bad ankle, beat Rulon Miller, of Princeton, two years ago.

The 440-yard run is particularly weak in candidates of 'varsity calibre. E. J. Bassett and F. Grunsky will have to show decided improvement if they hope to win any points at this distance. The half mile is somewhat better off. C. A. Fulton and Ferris Hetherington have both gone the distance in close to two minutes, and Fulton is apparently better this year than he has even been before. A. Zink and John Brodix are two other candidates who show promise. The same quartet contains all the material at present available for the mile run.

In the two-mile run C. D. McDonald is the strongest man Columbia has. He did the distance in close to 10.10 last year, setting a new university record. The only other man who shows promise at this distance is A. B. Zink, who ran on the cross country team last fall.

In the hurdle races D. D. Muir is the best man available. He is credited with 16 2-5 in the high hurdles and 25 1-5 in the low hurdles. The other candidates are George Mackenzie and C. B. Rolker. Neither has done anything outside of class meets, and, unless they show marked improvement, will not win many points. Columbia has lost a hurdler as well as a sprinter in Knackal.

In J. J. Ryan, the freshman football and basketball player, the Blue and White has a high jumper, who ought to win some points. He is credited with 6 feet 1 inch when in form. Two other men who will compete in this contest are F. Ware and C. M. Rolker. For the broad jump there are three candidates, E. T. Eddingfield, E. V. Kehrlein and Leo Leventritt. Of these the latter is the best when in form.

For the pole vault the Blue and White has practically no one who will be able to capture any points. The best man in the shot put is J. J. Ryan, who is credited with having put the 16-pound shot over forty feet. P. Von Saltzen is another big fellow whom Josh Crooks will try to developfl into a weight man.

The hammer throw is weak. J. B. Naething and R. L. von Bernuth are the only candidates at present, and neither has done anything out of the ordinary.

The schedule as arranged at present includes four meets. On April 28 the team will go to Philadelphia to take part in the University of Pennsylvania relay carnival. On May 5 a dual meet between Pennsylvania and Columbia will take place in New-York, and on May 19 the team will meet the Tigers at Princeton. On May 25 and 26 Columbia will be represented in the intercollegiate contests.

COLUMBIA CREW CANDIDATES.

The list of candidates for the Columbia 'varsity crews was announced by Coach Jasper T. Goodwin yesterday and is as follows:

J. McV. Haight, '07, C.; F. W. Kobbe, '08, C.; W. L. Wood, '08, S.; E. V. Kehrlein, '07, C.; A. Gallewski, '08, T. C.; R. M. Richter, '06, C.; J. O. Hauser, '08, C.; B. Osterhaut, '08, C.; L. J. Young, '08, S.; J. J. Lawrence, S.; D. Slayd, S.; R. C. Masterton, '07, C.; J. N. Boyle, '06, C.; J. L. Tonnele, '08, S.; A. V. Young, '06, S.; Harold Perrine, '07, C.; E. J. Bassett, '08, C.; A. S. Miller, '07, S.; H. M. Snevilly, '08, C.; R. S. Feiter, '08, S.; E. H. Updike, '08, L.; J. A. Noskerup, S.; M. Van Siclen, '08, S.; F. D. Willard, S.; A. Algeltinger, '08, S.; J. W. Walther, '07, C.; G. S. Small, '06, C.; R. M. Bacon, '06, C.; S. S. Watkins, '06, S.; C. Von E. Mitchell, '07, C.; H. W. Kitson, '07, S.; R. P. Marshall, '08, C.; William T. Miller, '08, S.; C. G. Dresser, P. G.; M. H. Miller, '07, L.; G. H. Bode, '08, S.; J. G. Ross, S.; J. M. Griffith, '06, L.; W. Fisher, '07, L.; H. N. Johnson, '06, L.; George L. Norris, '07, C.; H. B. Post, '08, S.; S. L. Earl, '08, C.; C. H. Ferris, '08, L.; E. C. Roy, '08, L.; H. B. Taylor, '06, S.; D. C. Maetaylor, '06, S.; H. D. Bulkley, '06, L.; E. Mackenzie, S.; C. Campbell, '07, S.; E. C. Kendall, '08, S.; A. T. Morgan, S.; A. B. Cheadle, '06, C.; P. W. Wilcox, '08, C.; F. F. Dixon, '06, L.; R. Swinn, '07, L.; H. B. Short, '06, L.; E. P. Kilroe, '06, L.; Rudolph L. Von Bernuth, '07, L.; J. W. Kingsbury, S.; B. Brown, S., and G. S. O'Loughlin, '06, L. Coxswains—R. C. Masterton, '07, C.; C. D. Dorsey, '07, S.; H. A. Richards, '07, C., and K. M. Spence, '06, C.

The candidates for the freshman crew, from both the science and college divisions of the class, are as follows:

F. R. Taylor, T. H. Bauchle, jr., C. B. Miller, W. H. Golde, B. Willis, G. Gillies, J. G. Glen, W. B. Davidson, P. C. Roborg, M. Dawson, C. B. Milkman, H. Hodgkinson, D. D. Sutfeter, jr., F. Smithers, L. Metz, M. C. Mapes, C. E. Kayser, L. Loomis, G. A. Hoag, T. A. Robinson, A. Miltenberger, E. Suarek, P. Cerussi, L. Spalding, J. Mackenzie, P. E. Loche, C. B. Meade, M. C. McLean, A. P. Braun, H. H. Hopping, B. Millard, C. Heashenstein, E. J. Simon, H. D. Brainerd, R. C. Tuttle, D. Durant and A. C. Schermerhorn.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNS.

N. C. Manley and R. W. Kennedy Win Mott Haven A. C. and Star A. C. Events.

The Mott Haven Athletic Club held its regular weekly five-mile road run yesterday over pretty much the same course as usual. There were twenty-five who finished, and there was scarcely two minutes between the first and the last.

The weather was ideal for the sport, and the going was good. The winner was N. C. Manley, unattached, who beat B. Mann, of the Mott Haven Athletic Club, by a single second.

The Star Athletic Club, of Long Island City, held a four and a half mile road race yesterday, from the clubhouse, in Jackson-ave., to and around Laurel Hill Cemetery. Nine men competed, the winner being R. W. Kennedy, Star Athletic Club; time, 30 minutes 40 seconds.

The others were J. T. Kennedy, Star Athletic Club; E. W. Price, National Athletic Club; J. Moriarity, Star Athletic Club; S. Owens, Brooklyn Athletic Club; C. Early, Star Athletic Club; D. Mullin, Star Athletic Club; C. Cown, Star Athletic Club, and J. Hanson, Star Athletic Club.

BOSTON HORSE SHOW JUDGES.

Boston, Feb. 18.—The list of judges for the Boston Horse Show, to be held at the Mechanics' Building from April 16 to 21, was announced to-night as follows:

William Pollock, Pittsfield, Mass.—Trotters, roadsters and road rigs.

J. W. Ogden, New-York—Ponies in harness, pony stallions and pony brood mares.

J. W. Ogden, J. W. Barnum and George C. Haven, jr., New-York—Four in hands, tandems, harness horses, carriages and appointments.

Dr. C. Shirley Carter, Warrenton, Va.; W. S. Ellis, Philadelphia, and E. T. H. Talmage, jr., New-York—Saddle horses, ponies under saddle and high school horses.

N. I. Bowditch, Framingham, Mass.—Heavy draught horses.

Allan Forbes, Boston—Polo ponies.

Samuel D. Riddle, Glen Riddle, Penn.; Frank A. Bonsal, Baltimore, and Charles McEacheran, Montreal, Canada—Hunters and jumpers.

Colonel R. L. Howze, U. S. A., West Point, N. Y.—Military riding and cavalry horses.

OF INTEREST TO YACHTSMEN.

The annual meeting of the Larchmont Yacht Club will be held on Wednesday evening, at Delmonico's, when the election of officers and trustees for the year will be held. The nominating committee is composed of twenty-five members.

There are said to be between ninety and a hundred members of the Crescent Athletic Club who own yachts. A list of them is being compiled by Arthur Aldridge, chairman of the new yachting department. The club expects to have a regatta in the latter part of June.

The steam yacht Alcedo, owned by George W. Childs Drexel, and the steam yacht May, chartered by George W. Frazier, have arrived at Charleston, S. C., on the way to the West Indies, where they are to cruise.

Frederick D. Underwood, president of the Erie Railroad Company, is to be rear commodore of the Columbia Yacht Club this year, and Alfred H. Curtis, president of the National Bank of North America, will be one of the trustees. The club now has five hundred members and no indebtedness.

The sixty-foot sloops Neola and Weetamoe, both of which are to be in commission this season, will have as a competitor in the class the new sloop being built by the Herreshoffs for Commodore E. Walter Clark, of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia.

One of the six one-design yachts being built by the Huntington Manufacturing Company at New-Rochelle, from designs of C. W. Mower, for members of the Penataquit Yacht Club, is nearly finished. The owners of the boats are F. E. Ballard, Willard L. Candee, J. Henry Dick, E. F. Hutton, Simon F. Rothschild and Francis A. Williams.

Commodore Ambrose Gosling, of the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, has written Thomas Fleming Day that his club will arrange the finish line and look after the details for the yachts that are to race under the management of the Brooklyn Yacht Club from Gravesend Bay to Bermuda, starting on May 26, for the cup offered by Sir Thomas Lipton.

BOSTON TO ENTER HOCKEY LEAGUE.

It was announced at the St. Nicholas Rink last night that Boston will probably enter a hockey team in the Amateur Hockey League championship in 1907.

LAWN TENNIS.

Fine Entry List for Seventh Annual Indoor Championship.

Entrants for the seventh annual indoor lawn tennis championship for the national honors will continue practice this afternoon on the board courts of the 7th Regiment Armory, at 66th-st. and Park-ave. The class in the tournament this year is a "little toppy," as the Englishmen say, over that of any former year. This was evident on Saturday, when the men engaged in singles and doubles.

Hugh Tallant, the ex-Harvard player, and his partner, Edwin P. Fisher, winner of the metropolitan championship several times, surprised the 7th Regiment champions, William B. Cragin, jr., and Robert T. Bryan, by taking two sets out of three from them. Tallant and Fisher have been practising on the new courts of the Indoor Lawn Tennis Club, of Brooklyn, and the game proved fast.

Harold H. Hackett and Frederick B. Alexander, the Yale-Princeton combination, also indicated fine form. Alexander is talked of as a player for the American international team to invade England this season.

There were expressions of gratification on the part of the players at the news that Mrs. Barger-Wallach contemplated holding another series of indoor tournaments at the St. Nicholas Rink this spring. No programme has been arranged for this meeting, but it is planned to begin four weeks of play following the skating season at the rink. Two weeks of this time will be devoted to play by the foremost men of the country at both singles and doubles.

As to-day will be the last for practice before the tournament begins on Wednesday afternoon, the full strength of the entry is expected to fill the 7th Regiment courts. Among the entries are Raymond D. Little, E. S. H. Pendergast, Wylie C. Grant, Irving C. Wright, Theodore Roosevelt Pell, H. F. Allen, John Appleton Allen, Morris S. Clark, Julio M. Stelmacher, J. M. Westfall, J. B. Anderson, A. L. Hoskins and Dr. T. S. Hawk.

The championship singles will begin on Wednesday afternoon, and the tournament will continue throughout the week, with the finals on Saturday. The doubles will begin later in the week. There will also be consolation singles. The tournament committee includes William B. Cragin, jr., chairman; Arthur M. Lovibond and King Smith. The United States National Lawn Tennis Association will govern the tournament, as in former years.

ATHLETIC BOWLING LEAGUE.

Roseville A. A. Leads New-York A. C. by a Small Margin—The Records.

With only three more weeks of the Athletic Bowling League season, the final outcome remains as much in doubt as at the outset. The Roseville Athletic Association and the New-York Athletic Club teams are having a close race, with the former enjoying a slight advantage. Roseville has won 22 games and lost 11, while New-York has won 21 and lost 12.

In the individual average race no change is recorded in the order of the first two men. Pierson, of Roseville, continues to show the way, having raised his average a trifle, to 188.4. He is followed by Beam, of New-York, with 186.7, and then comes West, of Elizabeth, with 184.31.

The New-York-Roseville series, scheduled for tonight, in the former's alley, has been postponed. The standing of the clubs and team averages to date are as follows:

TEAM STANDING.

	Won.	Lost.	Average.	H. S.
Roseville A. A.	22	11	912.18	1,016
New-York A. C.	21	12	896.14	1,030
Columbia Club	19	14	855.19	961
Elizabeth Club	17	16	897.8	1,026
Jersey City Club	15	18	846.16	963
Montclair Club	14	19	850.20	968
North End Club	11	19	867.16	967
Newark Bay B. C.	10	20	848.27	961

INDIVIDUAL AVERAGES.

	Games.	Average.	H. S.
Pierson, Roseville A. A.	30	188.4	232
Beam, New-York A. C.	30	186.7	223
West, Elizabeth Club	33	184.31	258
Wood, Roseville A. A.	33	183.18	235
Breen, New-York A. C.	33	182.17	222
Meyer, Roseville A. A.	33	181.32	222
Van Ness, Roseville A. A.	30	181.28	217
Vreeland, Newark Bay B. C.	27	181.11	219
Durand, North End Club	30	180.28	237
Moffatt, Elizabeth Club	30	180.11	215
Sherwood, New-York A. C.	33	180.8	232
Schlereth, Jersey City Club	9	180.4	206
Clauss, Elizabeth Club	33	179.22	209
Booth, North End Club	30	178.27	224
Olozaga, Roseville A. A.	33	178.15	225
Keller, Columbia Club	33	178.13	227
Clute, New-York A. C.	33	177.28	235
Griffith, Newark Bay B. C.	30	177.7	234
Nolte, Elizabeth Club	33	176.16	219
Thomson, Montclair Club	33	175.24	223
Pope, Elizabeth Club	33	175.10	208
Hartzel, Columbia Club	38	175.10	206
Collard, Jersey City Club	38	175.5	232
Baldwin, North End Club	30	174.22	232
Lockwood, Montclair Club	33	173.31	220
Stoddard, North End Club	17	173.5	243
Stalling, Jersey City Club	32	172.22	221
Buck, Columbia Club	30	173.3	228
Higgins, Columbia Club	12	172.10	218
Huesmann, Columbia Club	18	171.13	231
Smith, Jersey City Club	15	169.14	203
Arnold, New-York A. C.	33	171.1	219
Snyder, Montclair Club	27	169.20	225
Starrett, Jersey City Club	24	168.10	200
Batting, Montclair Club	27	168.2	209
Tunison, North End Club	15	167.9	202
Meyer, Jersey City Club	15	162.2	189
Clark, Newark Bay B. C.	30	166.11	203
Woodward, Newark Bay B. C.	30	165.10	209
Garrison, Columbia Club	18	163.11	214
Kimball, Columbia Club	30	163.7	202
Simmons, Jersey City Club	18	162.10	210
Glass, Jersey City Club	9	162.4	189
Harper, North End Club	13	162.3	186
Cairns, Montclair Club	30	161.23	231
Diederich, Newark Bay B. C.	12	161.1	204
Jaeger, Newark Bay B. C.	21	160.8	197

BOSTON DOG SHOW'S BIG ENTRY.

Boston, Feb. 18.—A total of 1,240 entries, which is a record for a Boston exhibition, will be seen at the dog show which opens at Mechanics' Building, this city, on Tuesday, and will continue for four days. Terriers lead the list, with 202 entries, and cocker spaniels come next, with 102 entries.

SARATOGA ICE TROTS CALLED OFF.

Saratoga, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Owing to the unfavorable condition of the ice on Saratoga Lake, the meeting of the Saratoga Ice Trotting Association, scheduled to begin February 20, has been declared off.

MR. MAYER TO OPEN SHOW.

Julius M. Mayer, Attorney General of New-York State, representing Governor Higgins, will formally open the National Motor Boat and Sportsman's Show in Madison Square Garden to-morrow night. Besides being an enthusiast on motor boats, Mr. Mayer is a lover of outdoor life. He will welcome the yachtsmen and sportsmen when the doors are flung open at 8 p. m. for the two weeks' exhibition of boats and other things that the sportsmen admire.

CLASH IN GOLF DATES.

The Connecticut Golf Association, which includes some of the Metropolitan Golf Association clubs, has announced as the dates for its State championship July 11 to 14. This conflicts with the amateur championship of the United States, to be held on the links of the Englewood Golf Club. Charles H. Seely, the present Metropolitan Golf Association champion and former Connecticut title holder, will be compelled to decide between the national and State tournaments. The Connecticut championship will be held either at the Wee Burn Golf Club or the Brooklawn Country Club. Dr. C. H. Zimmerman has been elected president and F. E. Sands, of Meriden, secretary, of the Connecticut association.

WORCESTER GETS TRACK MEET.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Worcester, Mass., Feb. 18.—Frank H. Bigelow, of this city, has received word that Worcester's bid, bearing his signature, has been accepted in preference to that of Providence by the executive committee of the New-England Intercollegiate Association, and the big intercollegiate track games will be held on Worcester Oval on Friday and Saturday, May 18 and 19.

GETS CORPSE INSTEAD OF PRIZE PIG.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Indianapolis, Feb. 18.—When William Archer, of Cromwell, Noble County, called at the express office yesterday for a prize pig, which he had purchased and ordered shipped to him, he was surprised to find a corpse in a coffin. He protested that he was not expecting a corpse, and telegrams which were sent to the place of shipment disclosed the fact that the corpse had been shipped to Mr. Archer and the pig to the sorrowing relatives.

MAINE'S OLDEST SHIPMASTER DEAD.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Portland, Me., Feb. 18.—Captain Jeremiah C. York, aged ninety-two, the oldest of Maine's sea captains, who quit the sea a few years ago, after having been master of a vessel since he was twenty-one years old, died to-night at his home, in South Portland. Captain York made his first voyage as a cabin boy when twelve years old, rounding the Horn. He made many hundreds of voyages since and was well known in every big American and South American port. He was married seventy-one years, and leaves a widow and one son.

READVILLE RACE PLAN.

Three Heats for Grand Circuit Meeting at Boston Track.

The early closing purses for the annual Grand Circuit meeting at the Readville track, near Boston, on August 20 to 24, inclusive, have just been announced, and horsemen are surprised and delighted at the conditions. The announcement is large with significance in more ways than one.

"All classes at this meeting," says the official circular, "will be events of three races of one mile." This means that not only the stakes but the class races, too, which close just before the opening of the meeting, will be of the generally approved short type. In other words, Readville has set the example to the other Grand Circuit tracks by abolishing altogether the tedious three in five heat plan.

That the Readville stakes have been announced at this time and with such radical changes seems without doubt to be for the purpose of influencing the other track managers. In past years the Readville programme of early closing purses has never come out until late in March.

The system adopted by Readville this year is the "three heat, every heat a race" plan, which was introduced by A. J. Welch at Hartford and Cincinnati several years ago and used in the Charter Oak and Ohio stakes with much success. It has never before been applied to straight class racing. The nearest thing to it seen on the local trotting tracks was the "novelty" race introduced by Charles A. McCully at Brighton Beach four years ago.

The Readville plan provides that every race at the meeting be decided in three heats. Each one of these heats will be considered a separate race. All the purses will be divided into three parts, and each of these parts will be divided into first, second and third moneys for each heat or race. There will be no fourth moneys whatever.

Take, for example, the classic Massachusetts Stake, for 2:14 trotters, which is perhaps the most famous stake decided annually on the Grand Circuit. Its purse this year is $9,000 instead of $10,000, as heretofore. It is divided into three equal parts of $3,000 each. To the winner of each heat goes $2,100, to the second in each heat $600 and to the third in each heat $300.

Many horsemen have objected to this plan because it frequently leaves the winner of the race undecided, i. e., when a different horse wins each heat. When the same horse wins two or three heats, the result, of course, is evident. The plan provides, however, a fair and equal division of the purse, and it is sure to do away absolutely with the nefarious practice of "laying up" heats, which was made almost necessary by the three in five heat method.

The working out of the new plan, as shown by the Readville announcement, is interesting. The positions of contending horses will be drawn for the first race or heat of every event, but in the second race or heat the horses will start as they finished in the first, and in the third as they finished in the second. Horses not finishing within a hundred yards of the winner in any race or heat will be barred from further competition in the event. The entrance fee in every race will be 5 per cent of the purse, and nothing will be deducted from the winners of any part of the purse. Hobbles will not be barred.

The advantages which will accrue from the Readville plan are manifold. As already stated, there will be no "laying up" of heats, for to "lay up" a heat in such a race would be of absolutely no advantage. The "other fellow" would simply go on and win the money. It also means that three or four events can be scheduled for an afternoon's racing with the assurance that nine or twelve heats only will be required. Under this method there will be no more trotting until sundown, with the resultant getting home late for dinner.

John M. Johnson, who was elected a steward of the Grand Circuit last week, to succeed Howland Russell, is the president of the Readville track, and Charles M. Jewett is secretary. Messrs. Johnson and Jewett are to be greatly commended for taking the "bull by the horns" and abolishing the antique methods which have so long disgraced light harness racing. It is to be hoped that every Grand Circuit track will follow the lead of Readville.

There is another point of interest in connection with the announcement of the Readville stake programme. Last year, it will be recalled, the authorities prohibited pool selling at the Readville track, with the result that the meeting was curtailed to two days, and only the stake events were decided. There was some doubt as to whether there would be a Grand Circuit meeting this year at Readville or not. The announcement of the early closing purses seems to indicate that the management expects to come to some satisfactory arrangement with the authorities over the pool selling question.

The stakes announced for this year are as follows: The Blue Hill (2:30 class, trotting), $4,500; the Massachusetts (2:14 class, trotting), $9,000; the Ponkapog (2:10 class, trotting), $4,500; the Readville (2:08 class, trotting), $3,000; the Norfolk (2:08 class, pacing), $3,000; the Neponset (2:06 class, pacing), $3,000. Entries do not close until Tuesday, April 10.

SOUTH FLORIDA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP.

Walter J. Travis Expected to Win the Title—Some of the Entries.

Some of the strongest amateur golfers in the country will play to-day, to-morrow and Wednesday in the amateur championship of South Florida, at Palm Beach. Walter J. Travis, winner of the title two years ago, the only time he was a contestant, will be a pronounced favorite in view of his exceptional work in the open tournament over the same course last week.

Others expected to take part are Charles B. Cory, of Boston; Dr. W. S. Harban, of Washington; W. W. Burton, Arthur P. Clapp, Paul Waterman, H. R. Worthington, A. J. McClure, Davidson Lloyd and Frederick J. Phillips.

The women's championship of South Florida will be played on March 1, 2 and 3, also at Palm Beach, provided sufficient entries are received. Mrs. E. H. Titler, 3d, of Philadelphia, won last year. There is no tournament scheduled for Palm Beach on Washington's Birthday.

DYKER MEADOW GOLF HANDICAP.

The eighteen-hole medal play handicap, which began Saturday on the links of the Dyker Meadow Golf Club, was finished yesterday afternoon. J. E. Butts won the cup presented by the club, returning an 80 net. He was assisted by a 20-stroke allowance.

The frozen ground made low scoring difficult, but for all that some good cards were returned, notably the 84 by A. T. Dwight. There were in all 40 contestants during the two days. The scores yesterday were as follows:

Name.	Gross.	Handicap.	Net.
J. E. Butts	100	20	80
A. T. Dwight	84	0	84
H. G. McKeever	97	13	84
T. N. Horn	90	5	85
S. H. Wilkins	105