

# Denver Now Looks Like Best Bet for Eighth City in Western League This Year

## MUSKOGEE MEN TURN DEAF EAR TO W. L. PROFFER

Lincoln Lukewarm, Friel Message Shows; Wants in State Circuit

By H. A. BRIDGEWATER. Again the Western League pendulum seems swinging toward Denver.

Development yesterday made it appear that the mid-high Colorado metropolis stands a mighty good chance of becoming a member of the league this year, taking Joplin's place. Lincoln, first choice of the W. L. magnates as the eighth city, is merely lukewarm to Western league advances, while Muskogee, which was seriously considered, presents a nervous, hesitant front and seems satisfied to stick in the Southwestern.

Cold Shoulder at Lincoln. If Lincoln and Muskogee get out of it, where indeed CAN the league turn, but to Denver? Eliminate Lincoln, Muskogee and Joplin and there is no other place to go.

The impression that Lincoln must be considered practically lost to the Western league was accentuated by a telegram from Bill Friel, a member of the Western league who is visiting that city, to President Crawford of the Tulsa club yesterday.

Friel wired that "prospects in Lincoln are not bright" and asked Mr. Crawford to express his opinion. Mr. Crawford immediately got in touch with President Busby Barbour of the Southwestern league, a former Muskogee business man.

Barbour said he had been in communication with leading Muskogee baseball men during the day, and had come to the conclusion that they didn't care to risk making an entry into the class A Western circuit this year.

Denver Has Two Chances. Mr. Crawford then wired Friel that he was in favor of seriously considering the proposition submitted in Denver by W. L. Jones of Wichita, a former Western league first baseman who has made a fortune in oil, and "Pa" Rourke and Ed Hanson of Omaha.

The only objection the Western league ever had to Denver as a member was the great additional railroad expense its membership would place upon the other clubs.

Both Jones and the Rourke-Hanson combination, who want to put a club in Denver, offered to share this burden. Jones offered a flat offer to reimburse each of the seven other clubs with a flat sum of \$1,100 to help defray railroad expenses to Denver during the season, while Hanson and Rourke offered to share the expense but suggested no fixed amount.

Tex Jones' business-like proposition has been favorably considered by the club owners. They feel that with the bonus Jones offers transportation to and from Denver would be no more than a fair return for the offer to reimburse each of the seven other clubs with a flat sum of \$1,100 to help defray railroad expenses to Denver during the season, while Hanson and Rourke offered to share the expense but suggested no fixed amount.

Why Lincoln is Lukewarm. Lincoln's half-hearted attitude toward the Western league is easily explained. There is a strong movement afoot there to organize a Nebraska state league, a class D circuit, in which Lincoln would be the all-powerful central city with Lincoln men bossing the works. In Lincoln there is quite a bit of sentiment in favor of this league. There also is a large faction favoring the Western league's return. In short the baseball fraternity is divided in two groups, and the consequence is the Western league emissaries are not at all favorably impressed with the outlook.

There's no getting away from the fact that Lincoln is a mighty good baseball town, and if the fans were enthusiastic for Western league ball the Joplin franchise probably would go there without Denver being given much more consideration. But a divided, half-hearted Lincoln is something else again.

Muskogee Attitude a Surprise. Muskogee's virtual turn-down of tentative offers of a Western league franchise comes as a distinct surprise. The writer was a resident of Muskogee for almost a year, and if ever a town absolutely sat up on its hind legs and clamored for anything that town was Muskogee and the object sought a W. L. club. Muskogee business men were ready to raise any amount within reason that was necessary. For that matter, they actually did raise \$26,000 once to be used as a start in the event the opportunity to grab off a franchise itself.

But that was three years ago. Since then things have happened in Muskogee. The town has joined the new Southwestern league, which by the way was organized principally for Muskogee's benefit, and found it to its liking. The men who support baseball there know the Southwestern will give them the same and that it will be a paying proposition. Of course, they'd rather have Western league ball, but they realize it might be somewhat of an expensive luxury. Moreover, Muskogee is the bell weather of the Southwestern, while it would be a mighty little potato in the Western league patch. Lots of people would rather be a big duck in a little puddle than the contrary.

Without considering Muskogee's fitness for a Western league franchise it probably would be better for organized baseball on the whole to leave that city in the Southwestern and turn elsewhere for a success to Joplin. For Muskogee's withdrawal from the Southwestern would put that league on the rocks. It probably wouldn't even start this season, which would throw a lot of ball players out of work and cause more or less distress among a number of small club owners.

An Ohio inventor's syringe conveys a housewife to garnish food with mashed potato woven into artistic forms.

## WHY LANDIS QUIT

THE JUDGE'S GOLF GAME WAS SUFFERING

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Golf was one of the impelling reasons why Keneaw Landis recently resigned his federal judgeship, it was learned today. Although an ardent lover of the game, the baseball commissioner found he had no time for the links while exercising his double duty of arbitrating legal and baseball affairs. He found time for only three rounds of golf last year, which he decided was not enough to keep in physical and mental trim for his arduous duties. He said that with court routine off his calendar, he felt sure he would be able to play enough golf to keep him in perfect shape for arbitrating baseball difficulties. The judge plays a tolerable game of golf, and as a dog fancier possesses a canine that has been taught to retrieve lost balls.

## Appleby Annexes Billiards Crown, Beating Collins

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21.—Rear T. Appleby, New York, national champion, added the International title to his list tonight by defeating Percy N. Collins, Chicago, in the final match of class A 15.2 ball line amateur billiard tournament at the Manhattan club. The score was 509 to 408.

Ary Bok, Holland, finished his play in the international tournament this afternoon by defeating J. E. Cops Morton, Philadelphia, 300 to 228. The match was filled with variegated billiards. Bok was careless at times, although his close nursing, mase and position play were occasionally brilliant. Both of the men suffered from an unusual number of mis-cues and fouls. Bok jumped the cue ball off the table in an attempt at a draw shot.

## Joplin or Salina To Get Pittsburg S. W. League Club

The Pittsburg, Kan., franchise of the Southwestern league will be moved either to Salina, Kan., or Joplin, Mo., President Barbour said yesterday. All details for the sale of the Pittsburg club to the Kansas town were completed, and the transfer is ready to become effective when the probability arose that Joplin would quit the Western league. In the hope of inducing Joplin to join the Southwestern, the transfer of Salina will be held up three or four days, President Barbour announced.

The Southwestern has a representative in Joplin, President Barbour said, to conduct negotiations for the transfer of the Pittsburg franchise to that city if the baseball interests will accept it.

Inability to finance the team is the cause for the removal of the Pittsburg franchise. If the club goes to Salina, John McCloskey of Louisville, Ky., veteran baseball man will have charge of the team. McCloskey owns the Bartlesville franchise in the Southwestern last season and disposed of it recently to take over the Topeka franchise in the same league. Lately the Topeka franchise was transferred to Dick Cooley, a veteran manager of the Western league.

Indoor Rifle Range 'Dedicated' by Club. The newly reorganized Tulsa Rifle club held a very enthusiastic meeting at the armory last night, half a hundred members being in attendance and the new indoor range being given its "baptism of fire."

In the absence of President Campbell, Major Bell presided. The membership committee reported that 24 new names had been placed on the roll since the last meeting. The committee appointed to equip the indoor range was also reported on.

An impromptu rifle and pistol match was announced to be shot on the range north of the city this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. All members of the club are cordially invited to attend and participate.

Oil League Bowling Scores. Tidal—1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th 101st 102nd 103rd 104th 105th 106th 107th 108th 109th 110th 111th 112th 113th 114th 115th 116th 117th 118th 119th 120th 121st 122nd 123rd 124th 125th 126th 127th 128th 129th 130th 131st 132nd 133rd 134th 135th 136th 137th 138th 139th 140th 141st 142nd 143rd 144th 145th 146th 147th 148th 149th 150th 151st 152nd 153rd 154th 155th 156th 157th 158th 159th 160th 161st 162nd 163rd 164th 165th 166th 167th 168th 169th 170th 171st 172nd 173rd 174th 175th 176th 177th 178th 179th 180th 181st 182nd 183rd 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