

# Now That the Dates Are Fixed and the Strike's Off the Players Come

## WESTERN LEAGUE TO OPEN APRIL 18

Omaha Will Start Season at Denver and Will Return Home in May.

### SCHEDULE IS 140 GAMES

The 1917 Western league season will open April 18 and will close on September 4, the day following Labor day, and will be of 140 games.

This was the decision arrived at by the Western league magnates at their three-day schedule meeting in Omaha which came to a close yesterday afternoon.

Opening games on April 18 will be as follows:

- Lincoln at Joplin.
- Omaha at Denver.
- St. Joseph at Wichita.
- Des Moines at St. Joseph.

Thus the four northern clubs will open in the four southern cities. All four clubs will make the entire circuit of the four southern cities before returning for the opening games in the four northern cities. The first games of the year in the northern cities will be after May 1, the latest date of opening in years.

In the past it has been the custom for a club which opens the season away from home to return home after only one series away so that all the openings come within a few days. This year it is entirely different. For instance, Omaha, which opens in Denver will play Denver, Topeka, St. Joseph and Joplin before returning to Omaha.

The lineup of opening games in the north is as follows:

- Joplin at Omaha.
- Wichita at Des Moines.
- Denver at St. Joseph.
- St. Joseph at Lincoln.

### Omaha Draws Holidays.

Omaha was awarded two of the choice holiday dates, July 4 and Labor day. Lincoln will play Omaha here July 4 and St. Joseph City will be the attraction here Labor day.

The distribution of holiday dates was as follows:

- Wichita at Denver.
- Joplin at St. Joseph.
- Lincoln at St. Joseph.
- Omaha at Des Moines.

- Denver at Wichita.
- St. Joseph at Joplin.
- Lincoln at Omaha.
- St. Joseph at Des Moines.
- St. Joseph at Lincoln.

- Wichita at Denver.
- Joplin at St. Joseph.
- Des Moines at Lincoln.
- St. Joseph at Omaha.

### Hold Booster Meeting.

Upon his arrival at Lincoln President Zehring was instructed to send invitations to heads of Rotary and Commercial clubs in the Western league to attend a meeting in Omaha in March, the date of which Mr. Zehring is to fix.

The president of each Rotary club and the secretary of each Commercial club in the eight cities of the circuit will be invited to attend this meeting. All of their expenses will be paid by the league. The object is to form a circuit organization to boost Western league baseball in all the cities. Tom Fairweather, attending his first meeting as a full-fledged magnate, suggested this booster meeting, and the rest of the magnates instantly declared it an excellent idea.

## Jack Taylor Puts Up \$250 and Hurls Defi to the World

Ambitious wrestlers who aspire to cut some ice in their chosen profession—or trade if you choose—will have to take one Jack Taylor, Canadian champion, into consideration in the future if Ray Page, recently signed to manage Taylor, has his way about it.

Page has placed in the hands of the sporting editor of The Bee a check for \$250. Page says he and Taylor have been trying for some time to arrange matches with top-notch heavyweights, but that it has been their experience that most grapplers are largely conversationalists and cultivate a chilliness in the feet when the time comes to get down to business.

Taylor, Page says, has come back to Nebraska to qualify for another match with Joe Stecher and intends to prove his worth by eliminating all other contenders. Page sends in his check for \$250 as a forfeit to bind a match between Taylor and Marin Plestina, Earl Caddock or any other heavyweight wrestler, first come, first served.

Taylor wrestles Charlie Cutler at Lincoln February 26. After that event he says he'll take anybody and everybody on as they come up.

Step forward, you brave and bold bonecrushers, the sporting editor of The Bee is still holding that \$250 check.

### Friend High School Has Marked Up a Good Record

Friend, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.) The Friend high school basketball quintet has established a glowing record for itself so far this year. Friend has lost but one game this season. Friend's record so far is as follows:

- Friend, 25; Wilber, 16.
- Friend, 16; Milligan, 17.
- Friend, 42; Fairmont, 15.
- Friend, 19; Western, 15.
- Friend, 25; Beaver Crossing, 17.
- Friend, 15; Sutton, 15.
- Friend, 14; Crest, 12.
- Friend, 24; Hawley, 14.
- Friend, 24; Beaver Crossing, 23.
- Friend, 24; Crest, 12.
- Friend, 24; Geneva, 23.
- Friend, 27; Hawley, 17.
- Friend, 24; Swanton, 14.
- Friend, 24; Sutton, 24.
- Friend, 44; Exeter, 24.
- Friend, 27; Humboldt, 19.
- Friend, 27; Falls City, 25.

### Hummel to Install Many Tennis Courts in Spring

Park Commissioner Hummel has announced that he will install a number of tennis courts in the municipal parks this summer.

There are a few tennis courts at Miller park and their great popularity has prompted Hummel to make arrangements for as many more courts as possible.

The park department will also put in a municipal base ball diamond on the South Side this spring. At present there is no money diamond on the South Side and there are quite a number of amateur teams in that part of the city. The diamond is to be put in for their especial benefit.

## MEETS JOE STECHER IN OMAHA IN APRIL.



## STECHER TO MEET CADDOCK IN OMAHA

Gene Melady Will Promote Clash Between These Two Wrestling Phenoms.

### TO BE SOME TIME IN APRIL

Joe Stecher, who recently came back after an attack of neuritis by defeating Charlie Peters, has been matched to grapple the latest of wrestling phenoms, Earl Caddock, the Anita, Ia. boy.

The Stecher-Caddock clash will be staged in Omaha some time in April, probably on or about April 16. Gene Melady, who conducted the Stecher-Cutler and Stecher-Lewis tangles, will promote the bout.

The Stecher-Caddock match has been in the making for some months. After winning the amateur championship of the United States Caddock blossomed out as a full-fledged professional a couple of years ago and immediately began to sweep through the pro ranks like a meteor through the thin air. He threw all his opponents with the exception of a handicap match or so in which he merely failed to throw his foe in the required time limit and he has never had his shoulders touched to the mat since his start.

Lighter Than Stecher. Caddock is lighter than Stecher. Earl will probably weigh around 190 pounds. But he is fast as lightning. Is a keen student of wrestling and has been called "the wrestler with a thousand holds."

Since last fall Melady has been angling for this Stecher-Caddock match. Stecher's illness temporarily stopped the negotiations, but when Joe returned to form and threw Peters the other night he agreed to take Caddock on.

Articles will be signed as soon as the date is agreed upon. April is the month—before Nebraska goes into the dry column—and April 16 will in all probability be the day.

## Rules Committee Head Says South High Was Winner

That South High defeated Central High, 33 to 32, Friday night, is the decision Oswald Tower of Phillips Auditorium academy, chairman of the basketball rules committee, made in answer to a query from Omaha, explaining the dispute which arose at the conclusion of the game.

Tower wired that "the goal counts if the ball was in the air at the time the timer's whistle blew."

Both men timing the game agreed that the ball was in midair when the whistle blew. According to Tower's decision, the game was won by South High, 33 to 32.

Referee Hager yesterday awarded the game to Central High on the ground that the ball was dead when the whistle blew. But Tower's decision indicates Hager's decision is wrong.

### All Minor Leagues Will Start Despite War Talk

New York, Feb. 17.—All minor base ball leagues will open the season as usual, even though the United States should become involved in war and the question of suspending play will be decided later. President Barrow of the International league announced today. He has received assurances, he said, that the resolution passed by the major leagues turning down the two-year drafts would be reconsidered and a rule substituted which will prohibit drafting from a Class AA league unless the player has been in that company more than one year.

The international club owners have decided to follow in detail the American league plan for military training for the players.

### Evans Will Not Teach Batting Form to Cubs

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Charles "Chick" Evans, Jr., national open and amateur golf champion, will not teach "batting form" to the members of the Chicago Nationals on their spring training trip. Evans announced tonight that he had abandoned his intention of making the trip at the request of officials of the United States Golf association, who suggested that the venture might affect his amateur standing.

### G. M. Graham Is Winner Of Indoor Competition

G. M. Graham set too fast a pace for his opponents in the thirty-six-hole putting match over the Burgess-Nash company indoor golf course yesterday and by turning in a 68 easily won the afternoon's event.

## POWELL TOPS LIST OF TENNIS RANKING

Omaha Crack Is Given Honor Position by State Association Ranking Committee.

### HENNIGHEN IS SECOND

- NEBRASKA TENNIS RANKINGS.
- No. 1—Edolph Powell, Omaha.
  - No. 2—Clarey Hennighen, Omaha.
  - No. 3—E. V. Helmar, Arapahoe.
  - No. 4—H. R. Partridge, Fremont.
  - No. 5—Johnny Madden, Omaha.
  - No. 6—Ray Larson, Plattsmouth.
  - No. 7—Harry H. Ellis, Beaver City.
  - No. 8—Charley Mathewson, Walthill.
  - No. 9—Frank R. Morgan, Wayne.
  - No. 10—Charley Durand, Norfolk.

Ralph S. Powell of the Omaha Field club, holder of the state championship, has been ranked number one among Nebraska tennis players for 1916 by the ranking committee, which consists of Jimmy Ahern, C. H. Fisher and Johnny Ahern of Wayne.

At the annual meeting of the state association at Wayne last year the board of directors instructed President Charles Peterson of Arapahoe to appoint a ranking committee. The committee has just finished its work and announced the above selections.

Powell is given the honor position because of his victory in the state championship tournament. Powell also won the Tri-State title at Sioux City last year and is co-holder with Clarey Hennighen of the state doubles title.

Hennighen, Powell's running mate, is ranked No. 2. Clarey was runner-up to Powell in the state tourney. C. V. Helmar of Arapahoe and H. R. Partridge, who were semi-finalists in the state tourney, are ranked three and four, respectively. Johnny Madden, veteran Omaha Country club player, was placed No. 5.

### To Be Continued.

The ranking scheme, which is an innovation this year, will be continued every year. The president of the association will appoint a committee to perform the task.

Only players who participated in the state tournament are taken into consideration. His work for the entire season in all events is considered in arriving at the positions, but he must at least compete in the state tournament to be ranked. For this reason Will Adams, young Omaha crack who won the Iowa state championship last year, is not included in the ranking.

## Stecher Arrives In San Francisco For Ernst Match

Joe Stecher has arrived in San Francisco, where on Washington's birthday he will clash with Ad Santel, alias Adolph Ernst.

Omaha wrestling enthusiasts are watching the Stecher-Santel bout closely. Santel, it will be remembered, while wrestling under his real name, Ernst, wrestled Stecher at Fremont a couple of years ago. The first fall went seventy minutes before the Dodge youth dumped his foe. For over an hour Ernst from the mat and conversing in German advised Omaha sports who journeyed to Fremont to place their money on him, averring Stecher didn't have a chance with him.

The Omaha sports placed their coin and they lost it. After the match Ernst was openly accused of treachery and he was run out of Omaha by police officials when he returned to this city from Fremont.

Shortly after this sensation Ernst went to the coast and began to wrestle under the name of Santel. He has become a great favorite in San Francisco and local mat fans are eagerly waiting to see what Adolph will do this time.

## Mathey and Herd Winners in Fourth Round of Tennis

New York, Feb. 17.—Dean Mathey and Clifton Herd won their way into the semi-final round of the annual national indoor singles tennis championship tournament today. A. H. Man, Jr., also gained a place in the next to the final round by defeating Charles Chambers, while Mathey was eliminating Craig Biddle. The summary of fourth round national indoor championship singles: Dean Mathey, Cranford, N. J., defeated A. S. Cragin, New York, 6-4, 7-5.

### Fultz Releases Players From Pledge Not to Sign

New York, Feb. 17.—President David L. Fultz of the Bas Ball Players' fraternity announced today that the members of the organization had been formally released from their pledge not to sign 1917 club contracts until they received the consent of the fraternity officials. This release is the final step in calling off the recent base ball strike which for a time threatened to seriously interfere with the game during the coming season.

Fultz, in announcing the withdrawal of the strike order, said that the fraternity would continue as the players' official organization and the future of the association would depend upon the interest and action of the players themselves in this connection.

### Dubuque College Plays Creighton Here Thursday

Dubuque college, which has always been such a stumbling block for both Blue and White foot ball and basket ball teams, will come to Omaha Thursday night for a cage contest with the Creighton quint in the local gymnasium. Dubuque kicked the Creighton flippers at Dubuque a few days ago and Mills' men are determined to get revenge on their home court Thursday.

### Sam Crawford to Coach Trinity College Team

Sam Crawford is to coach the Trinity university base ball team at Wabasha for a couple of weeks before the Detroit Tigers report to camp. He will do a little lumbering up on his own account at the same time.

# SPORTS SECTION OF THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1917.

## Grand Old Man of Golf No Longer Amateur



Walter J. Travis, known as the "Grand Old Man" of golf, played his last game as an amateur on February 9 and hereafter can only compete as a professional.

The recent ruling of the United States Golf association stated that "Any one who derives any profit" from golf through his business connection with the game is a professional, and as Travis is a golf course architect, he comes under the ruling.

In his recent tournament matches at Palm Beach, Fla., he showed that he was still in old-time form and considering his age, he made a remarkable showing.

The golfing fraternity throughout the country look with reverence on the "Old Champ" and regret very much that the ruling bars him from the game.

The action of the association in adopting such rules is expected to cause a number of prominent golf clubs to desert the organization, and as Travis is perhaps the oldest exponent of the game, from a tournament standpoint, in this country, his withdrawal will probably have a deep effect on the future amateur rules that are bound to come.

## TWO SHORT RACES ON OMAHA SAUCER

Championship Will Be Hundred Miles, Followed by Fifty-Mile Consolation.

PRIZE MONEY TO BE \$12,500

Two races, one of 100 miles and the other of fifty miles, will be held on the Omaha auto speedway July 4, according to announcement of President Bert Le Bron.

The 100-mile race will be a championship event. Only eight championship races are to be held during 1917, each of the eight big speedways being permitted to hold only one race which will count in the flight for the title which Dario Resta now holds.

The fifty-mile race will be a consolation event to follow immediately after the championship.

The conclusion to stage the two short races was arrived at after observations made at the two previous Omaha speedway events in 1915 and 1916. An 1915 a 300-mile race was held. Last year two races, one 150 miles long and the other fifty, were held. Those who saw both races put the stamp of approval on the shorter because the longer the race the more it appeared like a tedious grind to the spectator.

So for this reason the directors of the local speedway decided to make the 1917 classic shorter still. It is believed 100 miles is the most desirable distance for a championship.

Seeker of Thrills. The speed enthusiast is a seeker of thrills. Because they must preserve their motors and tires drivers in the longer races cut out the exciting brushes which provide these thrills. But the question of sturdiness of motor and stamina of tires is not prominent in the shorter races. A 100-mile race would undoubtedly be run in less than an hour by the winning pilot. He would have to make a speed of over 100 miles an hour to win.

The driver who steers a safe and steady race won't get any place. And that means that every driver on the track will have lead in his foot, will crowd the accelerator down as far as it will go, will crowd on all the speed he possesses and accept rather than shirk any chance that arises.

It is believed the spectator will get one solid hour of real thrills witnessing a 100-mile joust, which would be much more satisfactory than getting a thrill every once in a while in a longer race.

The fifty-mile consolation clash to follow would round out an afternoon of real entertainment, is the logic of speedway directors.

The prize money to be awarded the victorious pilots will total \$12,500. Of this \$10,000 will apply on the championship race, a ruling of the new American Automobile Speedway association making it obligatory to hang up a purse which averages \$100 a mile, and \$2,500 will apply on the fifty-mile sprint.

## Gaskell Decides Pace is Too Fast

Prince Gaskell, sole owner and proprietor of the original trick windup, doesn't want to play with Omaha this year.

The prince probably took a slant at the bustling staff Pa Rourke has lined up and arrived at a quick decision that he wouldn't be able to stand the competition. So he has requested Rourke to give him his unconditional release.

The Omaha magnate has no intention of keeping Gaskell and expects either to ship him to some other village which may have some use for a bird with a clown windup or give him the unconditional release he requests.

## Creighton Five to Play Three Games With the Brandeis

Basket ball fans will have a chance to see the Creighton university floor squad in action soon against the crack Brandeis Stores team, state independent champions.

Arrangements for a three-game series between the Brandeis and Creighton are now being completed. The series will determine the city basket ball championship, and if Creighton defeats Wesleyan a second time, will also mean the state championship to the winner.

The first game of the series will probably be staged at the Creighton gymnasium on March 1. The second game of the series will likely be played the following week, and if a third game is necessary, the date will be set later.

There has been a great deal of comment in basket ball circles this season as to the relative merits of the Brandeis and Creighton teams. Creighton hasn't lost a game on its home floor this season, and their few reverses on their recent trip east were by the closest of margins.

The Brandeis have for years been the strongest team in state independent circles. They have the enviable honor of being the only team to defeat the Nebraska City Athletic club this season on the latter's floor. Among the teams Nebraska City has beaten there this season are Nebraska Wesleyan, Peru Normal, Newton, Kan., and dozens of teams of lesser reputation.

### Community Centers to Hold a Meet in March

A big community center athletic meet will be held in the Auditorium late in March under the auspices of the welfare board and recreation department. The date will be set sometime this week.

Mass drills, exhibitions of gym work in the community center, one or two open events, possibly a school event or two, community center relay races and the like will be included on the program. If the meet is a success it will be made an annual event.

## GOLF CLUBS READY TO WELCOME ROBIN

Charley Johnston Begins to Lay Plans for Spring at Happy Hollow.

OMAHA GOLF CLUBS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST TWITTER OF THE WELL KNOWN ROBIN AND THE TIME WHEN THOSE VICTIMS OF THE DREAD DISEASE, GOLFITIS, BEGIN TO ASSEMBLE THEIR IMPLEMENTS AND COMPLAIN ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF GOLF BALLS AND THE PASSING OF THE NINETEENTH HOLE.

Charley Johnston, professional at the Happy Hollow club, is already at work on the Happy's eighteen-hole course. As soon as the frost gets out of the ground Charley will make a few changes in the course.

More bunkers will be placed before the thirteenth hole, so that the second shot on this hole must be pitched. The other changes have to do with the installation of women's tees on six, eight and fourteen, the present tees being a little difficult for women to carry.

The woman's state championship tournament is to be held at Happy Hollow this year and Johnston expects to have an ideal course for them to play over. These are the only changes which will be made at Happy Hollow.

Start Season Early. The golf committee at Happy Hollow also expects to start shortly to outline a schedule of play for the 1917 season. The golf season will open this year two or three weeks before the club season opens. The first day of scheduled play at Happy Hollow will probably be May 5, or not later than May 12 at least. The club season probably will open about Decoration day.

Despite the fact that there are still traces of snow on the links, the greens rough and the cups full of ice, a number of golf enthusiasts have been playing quite regularly at Happy Hollow the last few days. Sam Gardner, P. M. Garrett, George Graham, Rev. Titus Lowe, Rev. E. A. Ernst, Elmer Thomas, S. S. Montgomery, H. H. Carder, Mrs. K. A. Lininger, Mrs. Leving and several others have been playing.

### Davies Getting Ready.

Stanley Davies, newly appointed professional at the Field club, will devote all his time to the Field club course, starting next week. Davies has been in charge of the indoor course at the Burgess-Nash company this winter, but will quit this position this coming Saturday and start active preparation for the approaching outdoor season.

Willie Hoare, professional at the Country club, will not return to Omaha from Hot Springs, Ark., where he is professional at the Country club during the winter months, until April 1, and no preparations will be made before his arrival here. It will probably be about April 1 before the city prepares to throw the municipal links at Elmwood and Miller parks open for play.

## STATE HORSE MAGS VERY OPTIMISTIC

Reorganized Nebraska Speed Association Looks Like Exceptionally Strong Loop.

### OTIS SMITH TO CHICAGO

By RUSSELL PHELPS.

The Greater Nebraska Speed association, with which is consolidated the Midway Racing circuit, is regarded by members of the harness horse fraternity as the strongest loop in the history of the state. Following the merging of the two circuits in Omaha Thursday, when a half hundred of the leading turfmen of the state met to arrange classes and dates, later being entertained by the Omaha Driving club at a sumptuous feed, Otis M. Smith, secretary of Omaha's harness racing club; Edward Peterson, president, and other devotees of the sport, predicted the best year yet for different meetings.

Dates were scheduled as follows: Kearney, May 20, 21 and June 1; Aurora, June 4, 6 and 7; Omaha, June 12, 13 and 14; Nebraska City, June 19, 20 and 21; Beatrice, June 25, 27 and 28; Lincoln, July 3, 4 and 5; Fremont, July 10, 11 and 12; West Point, July 17, 18 and 19.

The classes will be: Trotting, 2:10, 2:15, 2:20, 2:25 and 3-year-olds eligible to the 2:25 class. Pacing, 2:10, 2:12, 2:17, 2:22 and 2-year-olds eligible to the 2:25 class.

Officials of the Omaha Driving club are already making preparations for the June meeting here. The track at Benson will be widened so as to make it the best metropolitan twice-around in the middle west and every provision is to be made to accommodate monster crowds.

Mr. Smith will leave this morning for Chicago to attend the annual meeting of the Great Western circuit magnates in the Windy City Tuesday. Classes, purses and dates for the west's classic harness racing loop are to be fixed and other business transacted. Omaha's Great Western circuit meeting is slated for August. The local driving club secretary may drop in at the session of the American Trotting association congress, which is to be held in Chicago tomorrow.

If he can possibly get away, Mr. Peterson will also attend the Great Western mogul's conference. E. D. Gould, the Kearney racing man and breeder, will be another Nebraskan to take in the horse meeting at Chicago this week.

Just to show what he thinks of the ability of one of his stars, R. C. H. Tom Dennison announced yesterday that he was willing to trot match this stepper against any trotter in the state for \$1,000. The Omaha horseman is willing to stage such a race at the June meeting at Benson, or will agree to a series for \$500 a tilt in three cities, the meetings putting up the best side inducements and attractions to get the grapes.

One of the state's stars which should prove a great drawing card in a match race against R. C. H. is Sadie S. 2:07 1/4, owned by N. J. Romin of Fremont, the newly elected president of the Nebraska Speed association. Mr. Dennison would jump at a challenge from Sadie S.'s owner like a German hussar at a British Tommy.

Challenges Eastern Horsemen. The owner of the famous Hal McKinney stables also out gunning for a match race between R. C. H. and M. L. J., a distinguished New

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## Y. M. H. A. Will Hold An Athletic Carnival At "Y" on Thursday

An athletic carnival, which will consist of two wrestling matches, two basket ball games and possibly a boxing event, will be held by the Young Men's Hebrew association in the Young Men's Christian association gymnasium Thursday evening.

One of the basket ball games will be between the Brandeis and the Omaha National banks, two of the best cage fives in the city. The other will be between the Young Men's Hebrew association quintet and the Kandy Kitchens of Lincoln, Class B champions of that city.

The heavyweight wrestling go will be staged by Abe Leibovitz, the Young Men's Hebrew association champion, and Tom Ray, a local professional bonecrusher of considerable repute. The lightweight mat bout will be fought out by Harry Rochman and A. Mellig.

Proceeds from the event will go toward equipping a base ball team to represent the Young Men's Hebrew association this summer. The committee in charge of the affair consists of Abner Kaiman, Sol Novitsky, Abe Cohn, Ave Leibovitz and Jake Isaacson.

### Omaha Nationals Play Lincoln Five Saturday

The Omaha National bank quintet, cream of the Omaha Commercial league, will clash with the Armstrong Clothing company five, said to be the strongest in Lincoln, at the Omaha Young Men's Christian association Saturday night for the commercial house championship of Nebraska. Leslie Burkenroad is coaching the Omaha cage crew, and the locals have high hopes of administering a sound trouncing to the invaders from the capital city.

### Call Marin Plestina's Bout With Sorenson Off

Marin Plestina's match with Sorenson, the Indianapolis grappler, scheduled for Omaha February 22, has been called off. Sorenson suddenly decided he was worth a \$500 guarantee. As Omaha had been able to struggle along without ever seeing—or even hearing of—Sorenson in the past, it was the decision of the promoters that we wouldn't suffer greatly in the future. Mr. Sorenson was advised he wouldn't be guaranteed a jitney.

### Morningstar and Yamada Exhibit in Omaha in March

Ora Morningstar and Koji Yamada, prominent professional billiard shinkins, will give four exhibitions in Omaha March 20 and 21 at Cannan billiard parlors.