

ROUND THE SPORTING WORLD

EASTERN LEAGUE RACE

Comparative Strength of Some of the Competing Clubs.

WILKES-BARRE IS UNCHANGED

All the Other Clubs Strengthened—Base Ball Writers Place Scranton Last.

It is settled beyond all peradventure that Scranton will have a baseball team in the Eastern league of which she need not be ashamed. The club which she is not making any boasts; he does not claim that he will bring home the pennant, in fact he is not saying much of anything but he is sure to see from the composition of the club, whose personnel has already been published, that the team which will represent this city is one that will cut a big figure in the field in which it will trot. So much for McDermott's cots.

A glance at some of the competitors in the race for Eastern league honors will aid in forming an estimate of the comparative strength of the rivals.

Providence will be weakened at two infield points this season. Rogers, who led the Eastern league first basemen last year goes to Washington, and big Jake Drabuy takes his place. Drabuy had a holding average of .868, batting .266 last year. James Canavan, of Cincinnati, will take Stricker's place on second and McAuley goes to the outfield with Rogers. The outfield will not be changed. It will consist of Knight, Lyons and Murray. For pitchers, Derham, Egan, Hudson, Lovett and a young player from the Virginia league named Knorr have been signed. The team is strong in the box and outfield, but the loss of Rogers, Stricker and McAuley will be felt.

Rochester, one of the weakest clubs in the league last season, will be strong in pitchers this season. She has nine under contract and it will be strange if some of them do not turn out winners. The infield will be composed of Charlie Dooley first base, shortstop at Joe Mulvey at third base. The backstop of the Brownies is to be well looked after by Boyd, Zimmer and White.

Manager Kuntzsch, of Syracuse, has surrounded himself with a gamy lot of ball players, who will support themselves with credit if Kuntzsch will allow them to do so. He will bring them together for practice on the morning of April 4 at the Park hotel, Newark, N. J., where they will open. The team will start out with fourteen men; after a month's practice two of the pitchers will be released unless all five men put up wonders, as is to be expected. The State will play the University of Hobart and St. John's at Syracuse before the season opens. Captain and Acting Manager Reilly is now in Syracuse, arranging with Mr. Kuntzsch for the opening of the season.

There has been considerable anxiety manifested among base ball enthusiasts as to the make-up of the Wilkes-Barre team, says the Leader. As all the old players had been reserved and their names generally known, it was not deemed necessary to make much publicity in the matter. The players who are expected to play are: Frank Bonner, second base; William L. Higgins, catcher; John Wente, catcher; John McMahon, short stop; Charles A. Smith, third base; Fred Bess, center fielder; Alie Lenzette, right fielder; B. R. Lytle, left fielder; T. C. Griffin, pitcher; Howard Earle, first base; John M. Keenan, pitcher; T. H. Colquhoun, pitcher. In addition to these, Howard W. Laidley, of Avoca, has been signed as a pitcher and George Meakin has recently attached his name to a Wilkes-Barre contract. As is well known, Shannon was recently released to the Rochester club and Bonner has been drafted by the Brooklyn National League club, thus making a vacancy at second base, the only one in the team. For this position negotiations have been going on since half a dozen good men, and it is quite likely that before the month of April grows very old a contract with as good a man as is to be found in the Eastern league will have been executed.

All of the reserved players, excepting Griffin, Earl Keenan and Colquhoun, have signed 1896 contracts, returned them and the same have been approved by President Powers of the league. The four who have not returned signed contracts will no doubt do so in the course of a few days as the contracts were entered into before March 1 and if they refuse to sign they cannot play elsewhere under National agreement.

The Springfield champions have lost four of the National league draft lot four of their best men in Donnelly, Shannon, Callahan and Jones whose places have been filled by material which cannot be judged until March 15, when the "out" team. The general impression on paper is that Springfield has been so weakened that she cannot hope for more than a creditable position in the first division. The club certainly seems weak in its batting talent, but on Burns' reputation it is positive that the team would still be as good as that of any club in the league. Springfield has arranged a schedule of practice games which will occupy every weekday but one from April 13 until the regular season opens.

Of Buffalo, conservative judges accord the team fielding and hitting strength but recognize the club's weakness in the box and anticipate a lack of team work which must exist in order to assure success to any club. It does not seem safe to wager that the Buffs will be in the first division.

Toronto's "There's the rub. The team, like Scranton's, bears no resemblance to its last year's make-up. It is much stronger than last year's, that is generally admitted—and it has the advantage of possessing the most complete staff of players as Buckenberger, with Toronto's six left-handed hitters, its five former National leaguers and a strengthened outfield it seems reasonable to accord the team almost as good prospects of winning the pennant as any other club in the league.

Of the predicted result of the season the following from the Springfield Union very nearly represents the consensus of opinion of writers in Eastern league cities. It is as follows: "This guess is as likely as any that has been made: First division, Buffalo, Providence, Springfield and Syracuse; second division, Rochester, Scranton, Toronto and Wilkes-Barre. Notice that the clubs in each division are arranged alphabetically only and that no attempt is made to name their positions except to separate them into the two classes without regard to their relative strength in those divisions."

We disagree with the above to the extent that Toronto should be placed in the first division instead of Buffalo.

Springfield Union's Enterprise.

Not a little credit is due the Springfield Union and its sporting editor, I. E. Shannon, for the publication of a comprehensive baseball story published by the Union on Sunday. It was a composite story of specially written correspondence by local writers in each of the Eastern league cities and served more than has anything published this

"CUB" STRICKER SIGNED.

To Play Second Base This Year with the Scranton Eastern League Club.

"Another Philadelphia base ball player has cast his fortunes for 1896 with the Pottsville club of the State league," says the Philadelphia Press. "For three days Manager Al Henson has been in this city and has held daily conferences with John Stricker, who is known among fans all over the country. Stricker produced offers which he has received from clubs in the Eastern, Western and Southern leagues; Springfield, Mass., being especially desirous of securing his services. It was not until the last night that he finally decided to sign a Pottsville contract, and he will hold down second base for that team."

"Cub" Stricker has been on the diamond many seasons. For years he played with the old Athletics and was a member of the team when they won the championship. During 1887, '88, '89 and '90 he played with the Cleveland National League club. In '91 he was with Boston, in '92 with Baltimore, and in '93 with Washington. He signed in '94 with the Providence club, of the Eastern league, and was also with that team last season, when he had a fielding average of .821 and ranked fourth of the fourteen second basemen, who played in more than thirty games."

In 1896 Stricker played in this city.

CARBONDALE MAY SELL.

Traction Company Inclined to Purchase Stock in the Ball Club.

The Eastern League of Rochester, Janney and North, of Philadelphia, to Carbondale, was awaited with much eagerness by a host of base ball cranks who want to see the crackerjacks play their season. The Rochester club, Messrs. Janney and North are the heaviest stockholders in the Traction company and it was given out that unless the Traction company did not take some stock in the Base Ball association, the team would be sold at once. At a meeting of the company, Mr. Janney expressed himself quite freely on the subject.

"We are not in the baseball business," he said. "Our company wants to help along all local enterprises, but we think in this case we have already committed well in granting the park free of charge. We can take no stock."

The unanimous sentiment is now to sell the club stock unless the citizens rally at once to its support.

An application for a Carbondale base ball association charter was on Monday refused by Judge Archibald because of the sweeping privileges asked in the application and because the stock was not fully subscribed.

THE BASE BALL CLUB.

The Association Organized for the ensuing year.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., March 31.—The directors of the Wilkes-Barre Base Ball club, Eastern league, met today and organized for the ensuing year. The following officers were elected: William S. McLean, president; William T. Reed, vice president; Leo W. Long, corresponding secretary; Frederick Kropp, financial secretary; Isaac Long, treasurer; W. S. McLean, W. T. Reed and Charles W. Tammann, managing directors.

BASE BALL NOTES.

Rochester will play an exhibition game with Cincinnati on June 1.

The Toronto club's main fans out this year will be gray with mutton trimmings.

"The average pitching line of a left-handed pitcher is four years," says J. Hart Wagner.

Cy Young says he will not throw a speedy ball till he goes into a championship game.

Sunday ball will be played in Buffalo, Providence, Rochester and Syracuse the coming season.

Jack McQuade must go to Carbondale, although Dubuque claims him, owing to a salary irregularity.

Buffalo has signed a western pitcher by the name of Roach, making five twirlers in all. Roach is holding out for more dough.

Emmet Rogers of last season's Scranton club has gone back to his first love for 1896, and will catch for San Antonio in the Texas league.

Hosely, who signed a new catcher named Sweeney from the Nashville club, making five in all. The club may secure an outfielder from Louisville.

The deal whereby Bangor, Maine, secures Simon, of Syracuse, has been consummated. The club has sent out a couple of pitchers to the same team.

James Dean, who made quite a record as pitcher for the Young Men's Christian Association club in Scranton, has been picked up by Al Buckenberger for his Toronto club.

Jack Hutton, the Scranton short stop, who signed with the Dubuques, has gone back on his contract and returned his salary irregularity.

Donnelly, the Springfield third baseman of last season, has made a decidedly good impression on the Baltimore management, and it is likely that he will find a permanent home with them.

Syracuse has adopted two uniforms for the season. The home uniform will be gray with black stockings. The away uniform will be of green gray color, the green hardly perceptible. The shirts, pants and the caps will all be of the same color, and the players will wear black stockings.

Pitcher Meekin is quoted as saying that he will develop well with the pennant, and that the Baltimore and Philadelphia clubs are good ones. He evidently does not have a very flattering opinion of New York.

They are nothing if not enterprising at Princeton. A college professor has invented an artificial pitcher. The machine throws a straight fast ball, and two kinds of curves. It is to be used in Princeton's batting practice.

Cut Stricker, the ex-Providence captain and second baseman, has had a long talk with the Pottsville team of the Pennsylvania league. He was said to be a candidate for the game, by any means.

The Tribune's prediction made several weeks ago that Jack Chapman would manage Wilkes-Barre has been fulfilled, notwithstanding the fact that the first mention of it in the matter called for many denials from the Wilkes-Barre club's owners.

President Freeman was so impressed with one player's work at Jacksonville that he went up to him at the close of the game and said: "You will draw \$300 more than your contract calls for." The player nearly dropped dead and has been going around in a stupor ever since.

Money Hogan signed with St. Louis at a salary of \$1,200, although he was offered \$1,500 in the Western league by two clubs. Hogan was anxious to continue in a fast company, and preferred to run chances of this season's work attracting attention to him.

As it looks at present the New York team will be made up as follows: Meekin, Seymour, German and Koggy, pitchers; Carroll and Wilson, catchers; Harry Davis, first base; Glenn, second base; George Davis, third base; Conough, short stop; Tiernan, right field; Van Halstrom, center field; Stafford, right field; and a heavy hitting team, which is what Irwin is looking for.

There is a story going the rounds that one of the players of the \$100 levied at Baltimore, should not have been levied. As the tale goes, Rusie and Fuller were commuted. The pitcher did not find the key at the desk one night when he went there for it, and also could not get into the room. Sooner than demand an explanation and get Fuller into trouble Rusie slept with Mike Tiernan. The next morning one of Mr. Freeman's spies reported that Rusie had not slept in his room the night before, and the \$100 penalty was levied, and Rusie kept his mouth shut.

REVIEW OF ALL SPORTS

Batch of Bright Gossip Which is of General Interest.

THE YALE TRIP TO HENLEY

Expense Fund is Slow in Growth—Downfall of Amateur Big Athletic Club. The Trap Shooters' Weakness for Cash.

Yale's Henley crew might be able to get as far as New York, if they depended on the subscriptions to the fund that has been opened. The total amount subscribed up to Thursday was only \$300. To apply this list is in reality a small issue. The cash will be forthcoming. The proud, rich alumnus throughout the land would not allow Yale to stall in such a venture. The short course at Henley, and the rowing in heats will not handicap the Yale boys to any serious extent, for, while Yale for years has rowed over the four-mile course at New London, the undergraduates, with variety crew ambitions, that is, those who are fortunate enough to make the class crews, invariably get their first experience in a real race on the short course at New Haven in the class races. As to the system of heats at Henley, Yale will adapt herself thoroughly to those conditions long before they go aboard the Berlin.

"Scauld Pete," "Wart-faced Pete," "one-eyed Connelly" and "Half-nosed Hen." These are the sobriquets of gentlemen now posing as exponents of a pastime which has many admirers from all classes of the male persuasion. There is a method in these titles. A good catch name is easily remembered, helps along to public attention, and when the tip is passed around that the "Wall-eyed Nipper" and "Half-nosed Hen" will meet in the ring on the dead quiet, there is a hush on the part of many people to be present. A sort of a fascination attends the capture of these names, especially when the police are not on. Scenes, incidents, etc., are encountered which are well known to those who are present. Some people do not see the fun in the excitement in them.

The fox terrier is a plucky, sagacious, nice dispositioned little fellow, which is deservedly popular. He has so many good traits of character that his reputation is growing yearly. In Canada the dog is so strongly favored that there are enough splendid specimens to admit of an exclusive fox terrier show. One will be held in Toronto in May. It will be a success, too, for the club has good men at its head and affairs are first formed a guarantee fund so that the show would be on a sound basis from the beginning. The fox terrier is the best liked dog of the day, and as the entry list is expected to run up to 150 a large public patronage may fairly be expected.

Evidently Jim Corbett's show is doing a good business. Jim wouldn't be so quiet if the conditions were otherwise. He would be shooting out interviews bearing his name and the same might be said about Mr. Fitzsimmons. Robert didn't break into the papers all this week except in an unenviable way, case of judgment against him for debt.

There is hardly any use of arguing over the old controversy. It has been talked to pieces and there being no arbiters, the guilty man has not been found. John Quinn, manager of Peter Maher, speaking of recent criticisms against him for challenging Fitz said: "I observe somebody says that Corbett must have bought us off. That's a good joke. I think Peter Maher has a right to give Corbett first chance at Fitzsimmons, and then if Bob won't take him on Peter has a right to offer a battle. What if Fitz did defeat Maher twice? Money talks every time, and if we are willing to put up the cash, Fitz should be agreeable to give him a battle. I believe Sam Collier fought Billy Edwards three times. Jim Mace might have gone back and forth with Corbett and given other cases in point. Some of these people who roast our challenges should put up a little money. That's the way for them to see if we mean business."

There is a singular habit afflicting most people who compete in pigeon shooting. It is to divide the cash prize into the results in a competition. Not ten in a hundred are anxious to go on with the event until one man has triumphed. All the others are content to stop short and often declare they only shoot for the sport and are in the front rank when the time comes for a split up of the prize. The result is that sportsmen who claim that this element will eventually injure the pastime. The Grand American Handicap gave a good example. Eight men entered and the prize was divided into three parts. The 25 in the contest there was a silver cup in addition to the cash. The money was promptly divided then the eight men in a half-hearted way went off for the trophy. It didn't take long to decide this. Cash was what they wanted. The trophy and its honor were not worth much to many of them. They couldn't realize on it, and therefore the actual finish of the event was not what it should have been. Many of the winners were gun trade shooters.

Another extensive athletic club has been stricken. It was formed with a boom in a handsome club house erected at the corner of Third and Third streets. Then enthusiasm waned and difficulties came fast. The end was the posting of a notice of legal sale for debt on building. The Athletic club is a well known body. It was a formidable organization two years ago. Its artistic emblem of a belt, crossed by an oak blade was worn by many first in the list of competitors. The last has been seen.

LOCAL RACING BOARDS.

Suggestion Made by an Old Time Racing Man.

Now that the bicycle riders of the United States have been reduced to two classes—professionals and amateurs, or, as some people say, "saints and sinners," there are all kinds of suggestions being made relative to keeping a watchful eye on the amateurs. Now, even though the amateur riders are not so numerous as the professionals, they are not to be despised. They are watching now more than ever, because there is not an easy method of getting money as there used to be. Among many suggestions is one by D. J. Lowe, an old-time racer. His suggestion is strongly recommended by the American Wheelman, which says:

"The proposition is to appoint local racing boards in every prominent city, which shall investigate and watch over the doings of all amateurs in their city and section, and in turn report to their district racing board representative, who in turn shall submit the matter to the chairman of the racing board with recommendations. It stands to reason that, for instance, A. G. Hatch, older rider in every prominent city, which shall investigate and watch over the doings of all amateurs in their city and section, and in turn report to their district racing board representative, who in turn shall submit the matter to the chairman of the racing board with recommendations. It stands to reason that, for instance, A. G. 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