Comparative Strength of Some of the Competing Clubs.

WILKES-BARRE IS UNCHANGED

All the Other Clubs Strongthened-Base Ball Writers Place Scranton Last. Predictions as to the

Resnit. It is settled beyond all peradventure

that Screnton will have a baseball team in the Eastern league of which she need not be ashamed. Manager McDermott is not making any boasts; he does not claim that he will bring home the pen-nant, in fact he is not saying much of anything, but any one can see from the composition of the club, whose person-nel 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 celts.

A glance at some of the competitors in the race for Eastern league favors 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 Drauby takes his place. Drauby had a nelding average of 568, batting 256 last year. James Canavan, of Cincinnati, will take Stricker's place on second and McAuley goes to Washing ton with Rogers. The outfield will not be changed. It will consist of Knight. Lyons and Murray. For pitchers, Rud-derham, Egan, Hodson, Lovett and a young player from the Virginia league, named & horr have been signed. The team is strong in the box and outfield, but the loss of Rogers, Stricker and Mc-Anley will be fel. Auley will be felt.

Rochester, one of the weakest clubs in the league last season, will be strong pitchers this season. She has nine under contract and it will be strange if some of them do not turn out puzzlers The infield will be composed of Charlie Deoley on first, Dan Shannon at second, Offic Beard at short and Joe Mulvey at third base. The backstopping of the Brownies is to be well looked after by Hoyd, Zimmer and White.

Manager Kuntsch, of Syracuse, has surrounded himself with a gamey lot ball layers, who will disport 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 season. The team will start out with fourteen men: after a month's practice two the titchers will be released unless all five new men pan out wonders, as The Stars will play the Syracuse before the season opens, Cap-tain and Acting Manager Reilly is now in Syractise, arranging with Mr. Kuntsch 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 eam, says the Leader. As all the old dayers had been reserved and their ames generally known, it was not icemed necessary to make much pub-leity in the matter. The players were: Dan Shannon, second base; Frank Bon-ner, second base; William L. Olagms. catcher: John Wente, catcher: John McMahon, sohrt stop: Charles A. Smith, third base: Fred Betts, center fielder; Abe Lezotte, right fielder; E. B. Lytic, ard Earle, first base; John M. Keenan, pitcher: T. B. Colcolough, pitcher, In addition to these, Howard W. Luckey, of Avoca, has been signed as a pitcher and George Meakin has recently attached his name to a Wilkes-Barry 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 with half a dozen good men, and it is cuite likely that before the month of April grows very old a contract with as good a man or is found in the Eastern league will have been executed.

All of the reserved players, excepting Griffin, Earl, Keenan and Colcolough. have signed 1896 contra is, returned them and the same have been approved by President Powers of the league. The four who have not returned signed con-tracts will no doubt do so in the course of a few days as the contracts were tondered them before March ! and if they refuse to sign they cannot blay elsewhere under National agreement.

The Springfield champions have by the National league draft lost four of their best men in Donnelly, Shannon, Callahan and Jones whose places have been filled by material which cannot be judged until Manager Burns "tries out the 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 work will be as good as that of any club in the league. Springfield has arranged a schedule of practice games which will occupy every week-day but one from April 13 until the regular season opens regular season opens.

Of Buffalo, conservative judges ac-cord 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 or-der to assure success to any club. It does not seem safe to wager that the Pisons will be in the first division.

Toronto? There's the rub. The team, Toronto? There's the rub. The team, like Scranton's, bears no resemblance to its last year's make-up. It is much pronger than last year—that is generally admitted—and it has the advantage of possessing so competent a judge of players as Buckenberger. With Toronto's six left-handed hitters, its five former National leaguers and a strengthened outfleid 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 opinions of writers in Eastern league cities. It is not given as our opinion, but 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 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 Spring-field l'nion and its sporting editor. I. E. Sanborn, for the elaborate and com-prehensive baseball story published by the Union on Sunday. It was a com-posite story of specially written corres-pondence by baseball written correspondence by baseball written correspondence by baseball written correspond

season, to give a good idea of the rel-ative strength of all the clubs.

"CUB" STRICKER SIGNED.

To Play Second Base This Year with the Pottsville State League Club. "Another Philadelphia base ball play-er has east his fortunes for 1896 with er has cast his fortunes for 1836 with the Pottsville club of the State league," says the Philadelphia Press. "For three days Manager Al Lawson 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; Spring-field Mass, being estecially desirous field. Mass., being especially desirous of securing his services, it was not until late last night that he finally de-cided to sign a Pottsville contract, and

"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, 'SS. '89 and '39 he played with the Cleveland National League club. In '31 he was with Boston, in '92 with Baltimore, and in '93 with Washington. He signed 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 .921 and ranked fourth of the fourteen second basemen who played in more than thirty games."

In 1886 Stricker played in this city.

CARBONDALE MAY SELL..

Traction Company Boolines to Purchase Stock in the Ball Club.

Stock in the Ball Club.

The advent of Messrs, Janney and North, of Philadelphia, to Carbondale, was awaited with much eagerness by a host of base ball cranks who want to see the crackerjaks play there this sea-son, says a dispatch. Messrs. Janney and North are the heaviest stockholders in the Traction company and it was given out that unless the Traction comgiven out that unless the Traction com-pany 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 busi-

ness," he said. "Our company wants to help along all local enterprises, but we think in this case we have already conributed well in granting the park free f charge. We can take no stock." The unanimous sentiment is now to ell the club stock unless the citizens rally at once to its support.

S. McLean, president; William T. Reed, vice president; Leo W. Long, corresponding secretary; Frederick Kropp, financial secretary; Isaac Long, treas-urer; W. S. McLean, W. T. Reed and Charles W. Tammany, managing direc

John C. Chapman, the new manager of Brooklyn, N. Y., is expected to arrive here tonight.

BASE BALL NOTES.

handed twirler is four years," says J. Earl

handed twirter is four years," says J. Fari Wagner.

Cy Young says he will not throw a speedy ball till he goes into a champion-ship game.

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

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

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

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. Rochester has signed a new catcher

Rochester has signed a new catcher named Sweeney from the Nashville club, making five in all. The club may secure an cutfielder from Louisville.

The deal whereby Bangor, Maine, secures Simon, of Syracuse, has been consummated. The Stars may farm 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 Huston, the Scranton short stop,

Jack Huston, the Scranton short stop,

Jack Huston, the Scranton short stop, who signed with the Dubuques, has gone back on his contract and returned his advance money. He says he has signed with the New Orleans club.

Donnelly, the Springfield third baseman of last year, has made a decidedly good impression on the Baltimore management, and it is likely that he will find a permanent place on the team.

Syracuse has adopted two uniforms for the season. The home uniform will be white with black stockings, as last year. The traveling uniform will be gray, with black cap, sweater and stockings.

Batch of Bright Gossip Which Is of General Interest.

THE YALE TRIP TO HENLEY

Expense Fund Is Slow In Growth - Downfall of Another Big Athletic Club. The Trap Shooters' Weakness for Cash.

get as far as New York, if they depend team.

"Cub' Stricker has been on the dia-

"Scaldy Pete." "Wart-faced Pete."
"One-eyed Connelly" and "Half-nosed Hen." These are a few 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 giving these titles. A good catch name is easily remem-bered, helps along to public attention, and when the tip is passed around that ring on the dead quiet, there is a hustling on the part of many people to be present. A sort of a fascination at-tends the cahasing of glove contests in a barn, old ice house, etc., especially when the police are not on. Scenes, incidents, etc., are encountered which can be talked about for months afterward. Some people dote on these jaunts for the excitement in them.

An application for a Carbondale base-ball association charter was on Monday refused by Judge Archbald 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. The fox terrier is a plucky, sagacious,

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 berating Fitz, etc. And the same might be said about Mr. Fitzsimmons. Robert didn't break into the papers all this week except in an unenviable way. a case of judgment against him for

There is hardly any use of arguing Rochester will play an exhibition game with Cincinnation June 17.

The Toronto club's uniform this season will be gray with marcon trimmings. Maher, speaking of recent criticisms against him for challenging Fitz said: "I observe somebody says that Corbett must have bought us oft. That's a good joke. I think Peter Maher has a right to give Corbett first chance at Fitz-simmons, and then if Bob won't take simmons, and then it Bob won't take him on Peter has a right to offer a bat-tle. 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 Collver fought Billy Edwards three times. Jim Mace met Joe Goss more than once and I might give 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 shoots. It is to divide the cash the very moment a tie results in a competition. Not ten in a hundred are anxious to go on with the event until one man has triumphed. Men who claim to be thorough sportsmen and often declare they only shoot for the sport are in the front rank when the time comes for a split up of the cash. There are true sportsmen who claim that this element will eventually injure the pastime. The sportsmen who claim that this element will eventually injure the pastime. The Grand American Handicap gave a good idea. Eight men each killed 24 out of 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 shot off the tie 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.

systems. On all colors two uniforms for the season. The home uniform will be made by white with black stockings, as last year. The traveling uniform will be gray, with black cap, sweater and stockings.

The traveling uniform will be gray, with black cap, sweater and stockings.

Lam this year will be of the same proposed the green hardly perceptible. The shirts plants and the caps will be of the same color, and the players will wear black stockings, the helicoves Cleveland will win the pennant, and that the Bultimore and Philadelphia clubs are good ones. He evidently tokes not have a very flattering opinion of XT, the proposed of XT, the straight fast ball, and two kinds of Curves. It is to be used in Princeton' at the proposed of XT, the straight fast ball, and two kinds of Curves. It is to be used in Princeton' at the proposed of XT, the proposed in the political pitcher. The machine for curves. It is to be used in Princeton' at the proposed of the princeton' at the politic plant of the princeton' at the politic plant of the princeton' at the princeton' at the princeton' at the politic plant of the princeton' at the princeton' at the politic plant of the princeton' at the princeton' at the princeton' at the princ

ter maintained. We believe some amateurs have been unjustry punished through malicious prosecution, but we are also quite sure that many guilty have escaped. The 100-mile limit and prize-value limit will do much to restore and preserve the beauty of amateur sport, and we think that local racing boards, under the direction of the national board, would be a great strengthener in preserving amateur cycling from shady amateurs and equally shady manufacturers, who seek to pollute it for the sake of their own aggrandisement."

"DICK" CROKER'S HORSES.

llas a Formidable String in England and Is Sure to Win Races. Richard Croker will probably get back this season in England some of the money he so lavishly spent last year. It is the universal verdict of all who have seen his horses that he has a most formidable string, while Englishmen say that a better trainer than Morton,

or one more competent to tell an owner when to bet and when not to bet, does not live in the United Kingdom. J. E. McDonald, the American book-maker, who is now abroad, writes that he recently visited Croker's racing es-tablishment. "I spent a day with Mortablishment. "I spent a day with Mor-ton while in England," writes Mr. Mc-Donald, "and I never saw a better or healthier lot at that time of the year. He has kept them going all winter and with just an ordinary amount of luck, Croker will win races sure this year. They have a brother to the Commoner, shom I think is certain to make hi r.ark if appearances and conformatio go for anything."

Croker will have the advantage this Croker will have the advantage this season of a competent English trainer and a competent English jockey; and the innumerable differences between the English and American system of racing, the thousand and one little things which mean in the aggregate success or failure, are incalculable handicaps to the American whose jockey and trainer are not English. In addition to all these things the absence of M. F. Dwyer will smooth matters M. F. Dwyer will smooth matters

BICYCLE NEWS AND GOSSIP.

Charles Coleman will ride a Syracuse racer this season.
Dick Wambold, of the Green Ridge Wheelmen, is riding his "56" Keating.
Cashler Dunham, of the Dime bank, has purchased a "56" Keating.
Eddie Baid will soon challenge any professional rider in the country for a \$500 purse.

A time limit of 1 hour, 25 minutes, will be placed on the Irvington-Milburn road race this season.

Secretary Bassett's report shows the membership of the League of American Wheelmen to be 43,977.

Fred Stevens, of Ira Bennett & Co., has bought a new model Victor. Mr. Stevens is an old Victor rider.

Sanger has accepted Hamilton's challenge for a match race. The articles of agreement will probably be signed this week.

week.

Thomas Malion, of the Harlem wheelmen, New York, will race in Dublin, Ireland, on April 7. This will be his first of a series of races with foreign amateurs.

Don't ride too hard when you first begin riding for the season. Go at it gradually and you will not only enjoy it more, but will be in better condition during the entire season. entire season.

but will be in better condition during the entire season.

A great many men and also women have acquired a deal of mechanical skill by caring for their own wheels, cleaning the bearings, adjusting the parts, mending punctures, etc.

Samples of folding bleveles are being tested by the Russian and Prussian army authorities, and it is reported that if they prove satisfactory the latter country will order several thousand of them.

The blevele clubs of Little Falls and Herkimer, N. Y., have hit upon a novel plan for the building of a cycle path between the two towns. They have agreed to collect the ashes of the two towns and put it on the road.

The fine weather for the last few days has been a boom for the bicycle dealers. It is surprising how it has created the "blevele feaver." The retail dealers have had more caliers this week so far than in any full week this season.

Ladles who are just beginning to 'ride should dismount and walk up the hills: the walk for a short distance after having been on the wheel for a mile or two will be found refreshing, and they will feel more like continuing the trip at the top.

It is estimated that there are more

be found refreshing, and they will feel more like continuing the trip at the top. It is estimated that there are more than forty so-called puncture-proof tires on the market. As yet none has made a decided hit. The first really good one that is launched forth, with general advertising and well "pushed," will reap a harvest.

The abandonment by the smart set in Paris and London of the high sleeve will have an effect on the designs for bicycle costumes that many riders have long wished for. High, full sleeves hold the wind to a very appreciable extent during gusty days.

wished for. High, full sleeves hold the wind to a very appreciable extent during gusty days.

The following is supposed to be the correct definition of an amateur bleycle rider: "A wheelman who is able to buy his own wheel, keep it in repair, pay expenses to all race meets, hire a trainer, employ a detective to see that he does not dispose of his prizes and make a monthly report to the racing board."

A. A. Zimmerman says: "Sit up straight when you ride. If you are out for a mild little jaunt you will enjoy it ever so much more if you sit up straight. There's notehing so attractice about the road that you should keep your eyes on it constantly. Sit up straight, and enjoy the scenery as well as the fresh air."

Scranton wheelmen will be pleased to learn that we are to have a bicycle race track, built expressly for, and to be used only for bicycle races. The enterprising managers of the Driving park have decided to build such a track inside of the half mile horse track at the park. The size of the track has not as yet been definitely decided upon, but will probably be a three-lap one. Many other improvements will be made at the Driving park just as soon as the plans are completed. Many people who thought they knew what they were talking about, predicted that the bicycle output this season would far exceed the demand, there being so many new bicycle manufactories started throughout the country. Such is not the case, however. The retail dealers cannot supply wheels fast enough for their customers, as they are unable to get them from the factories without long delays. Ah of the factories where high grade wheels are being made, are working double time, and many of them are thirty days behind with their orders.

An Old-Fashloned Brother. me minister had been in the little Kentucky town but a short time, and when he was called on to preach a funeral sermon he thought it best to pick up a few facts about the deceased.

facts about the deceased.
"I trust our brother gone before was a truly religious man?" he said to the surviving brother.
"You bet he was," was the earnest answer. "Why, brother, he never tult out his gun to lay fer one of the Simmonaes without fust prayin three hours."—Cincinnatt Enquirer.

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MAKERS OF BASE BALLS. They Have a Trust and Make Abundane

Comparatively few persons know that several millions of base balls are an several millions of base balls are annually consumed in this country, and a still smaller number know that the supply is filled by Philadelphia factories, owned jointly by Philadelphians and Chicagoans. Years ago, when base ball was in its infancy, base balls were made by hand, and if they were batted about in a very lively way they speedily became flat and misshapen. The game grew in popularity, and the demand for base balls became so brisk that the ball for the national game assumed an individuality peculiarly its own. Today its construction is regulated by the National league.

The base ball market is controlled by a trust, and the profits must be very

The base ball market is controlled by a trust, and the profits must be very large, for the balls are no longer made by hand, but by machinery, which is capable of turning out the finished product with great rapidity. There is only one set of those machines in the country, and the manufacturer of horse-hide. Para rubber souled spheres is conducted in secret. There are men in New York and other cities who would give thousands of dollars to own such give thousands of dollars to own such machines, but they cannot buy them at any price. As long as the Philadelphia inventor retains the control of his base ball maker, just so long will his combination control the market, for all competition has been practically killed off. Of course, there is more or less competition, but it is of a character that the trust does not object to for

obvious reasons. Some time ago a man in the sport-ing goods business made the assertion that any one who could make a five-cent ball and give away a box with every ball would catch the boys' trade of the country, and if he could make a profit, a fortune was in sight, for the schoolbby wants his base ball in a box, even if he enly pays five cents for it. The combination does not make such a ball at present, but doubtless they would if any rival should spring up. Enormous quantities reaching into the millions are handled by the American News company and its branches

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SPORTS OF ALL KINDS.

John Lawson, "the terrible Swele" of Chicago, is training to make an attempt for the Chicago-New York record, which is now held by Robert Scarle.

It is estimated that it will cost \$10,000 to take Yale's 'varsity crew to England to compete in the Henley regatts. This includes all training expenses.

Next Saturday England's greatest aquatic event, the annual Oxford and Cambridge boat race, will be held over the 4-mile course on the Thames, from Putney to Mortlake.

Little Tobe, 21%, is booked for the 2.10 list. He is owned by Mr. Menifield, of Baltimore, and was sired by Pemlico, 2.10. The horse is rightly ramed, being only 14% hands high, and is handsome.

New York horsemen would like to see a race to road wagons between the three crack metropolitan roadsters. David H., 20%; Gillette, 2.11%, and Cobweb, 2.22 during the spring meeting at Fleetwood park.

Lord Dunraven, or his underwriters, will receive 17,500 for the sinking of the Valkyrie II by Satinita. The court first assessed the damages to which Lord Dunraven was entitled to be 1852, but that decision was reversed, and the end of the case is as above. The amount claimed was 18,000, the sum for which the Valkyrie was insured.



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