### EASTERN LEAGUE BASE BALL CHAT

Paragraphs of Current Gossip on the Eve of the Fight.

SCRANTON IS HIGHLY FAVORED

Sporting Writers Who Have Not a High Regard for Scranton's Chances Are an Exception -- An Outfield with a Batting Average of .351 and an Infield That Can Hit the .333 Mark. Wilkes-Barre Not to Be Despised.

Whatever may be said by local writers and fans of the Scranton club's probable chances on the diamond this season, the opinions of writers throughout the Eastern league circuit point toward the eminent success of "Sandy" Griffin's men. The pitching department does not seem to be wholly satisfactory, but that is the only spot in which the club may prove weak.

There are twenty players on the club roll and of these all have signed, ex-cepting Gunson and Harper, both of whom want to play but are quibbling in an effort to help Irwin out. The over a question of salary. Honner long team lost \$5,000 last season. This year ago accepted terms, verbally and in writing, and will be found on second bag when the gong sounds notwithstanding the report from Wilkes-Barre that he finds his saloon business too profitable to abandon. The complete roster of the team is as follows:

Catchers-Boyd, Gunson, Berger O'Neill.

Pitchers-Gillon, Harper, Yerkes, Meaney, Morse, Wellner, First base-Massey, Second base-Bonner,

Third base-Magnire Shortstop-Beard, Moss,

Left field-Engan. Center field-Walters, Manager Griffin, Right field-Daly, Extra player-O'Brien.

Assuming that Griffin's plans do not miscarry, the probable make-up, exeluding pitchers, will be:

Catchers-Boyd, Gunson. First base-Massey. Second base-Bonner. Third base-Maguire. Shortstop-Beard, Left field-Eagan, Center field-Walters. Right field-Daly.

On the strength of the proposed make up and that the pitching corps will show an efficiency which will nearly average that of other clubs, Scrapton is tipped in every Eastern league city to finish not lower than fifth, while several writers claim the club as their choice for fourth and a few size up the team as having a good chance for third place. All this is, to say the least, pretty good for a club half-composed of players who finished an un-mistakable tail-end last season.

There is reason for these hopes. Although the club is not stamped with too much of that dash and speed which are essential to a sure winner, its hitting strength should be second to none in the league. Massey and Bonner with percentages of .337, Beard's .355 and Maguire's .301 show an average infield hitting strength of ,333. The outfield looms up even better than that. Walters comes here from the New England league with an average of .374. Daly has a mark of .349 and Eagan show a general outfield average of .351. Of the others, Meaney has an average good work by outfielders. That fault of .332, Gunson .300, O'Brien .298 and will be remedied before the season Boyd .258.

A sample of how Scranton is viewed lowing extract from a general review story in the Buffalo Express, and the what other sporting writers say:

As far as team strength is concerned looking at the past work and records of individual players, it is fair to judge that the first division should include Bur falo, Providence, Syracuse and Scranton The second division may be headed by Rochester, with Wilkes-Barre and Spring field following and Toronto trailing.

Many fans like the three New York clubs and Providence. Others look on Scranton as dangerous. It is safe to say that both Scranton and Wilkes-Barre are much stronger than last year, Wilkes-Barre may not be a second division team after all. Some hot southern blood has just been imported and the Coal Baron may astonish the natives,

Scranton is good and strong. Three o Rochester's best men, Boyd, Beard and Daly, are with the Coal Heavers. In batting, the team is the strongest of them ail. Bonner, of Wilkes-Barre, will be a hot one on second. Meaney will be on the pitching staff, but it is hardly likely that he will stay there long. The only weak point in the team is the pitching

It is true that Wilkes-Barre's chances are not to be despised. In all past seasons that club has been an unknown quantity up to a few weeks, and oftentimes a few days before the practice season. On that account this year there has been given no opportunity to wax enthusiastic over Wilkos-Barre's outlook until very recently. Now it transpires that while Wilkes-Barre has lost Bonner and Legotte it has secured as manager and outfielder Abner Powell, who has been manager and captain

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ern league for several years, and who will bring with him Gonding, also of the New Orleans club, and a catcher

most promising new professionals in its completion.

A matter which is attracting considerable attention is the international race Eastern's twirlers. "Jack" Sharrott is another addition and will play in the another addition and will play in the

Every team in the league begins the scason with good prospects of financial success, Toronto excepted. Arthur Irwin, in accepting the Toronto franchise, seems to have stacked vy against a pretty hard game, and if the Canadians finish the season it will be surprising. That team at home will have to compete for favor with the Canadian league, which, in Toronto, is represented by a club managed by Maddocks, the rather primitive and easy-going gentleman who managed the Toronto Eastern league team in 1895. Just now the Toronto sporting writers are not falling over themselves the grounds are about two miles from the business section of the city and to reach them patrons will have to pay extra ferriage.

It may be, however, that someone more influential than Arthur Irwin is back of Toronto, That was indicated in the Washington Star, the mouth-piece of Earl Wagner, which contained these headlines; "Good For This City; Mr. Wagner's Deal With the Toronto Ball Club; WILL BE A FARM FOR WASHINGTON," The story contained the following:

There is no longer doubt that J. Farl Wagner is principal owner of the Toron-to Base Ball club. This arrangement was entered into during the early winter between Earl Wagner and Arthur A, Irwin, the well-known base ball manager. The franchise was obtained by purchase from the Pitisburg club, After the consumma-tion of the deal, Mr. Irwin at once went to work to get together a strong club, and that he has succeeded in doing so is admitted by all persons who keep in lute, and irrevocable, even in part. A touch with base ball matters. \* \* \* man loses \$1,000 by his house being de-This deal was a wise stroke of business stroyed by fire, but somebody is benepolicy on Mr. Wagner's part, and answers the often asked question: "What ar-rangement has Mr. Wagner made to strengthen his team in case of accident or other misfortune? It is easily seen that the Washington club was never so well fortified, baving first call on any player of the Toronto team.

Manager Sandy Griffin will today reach Scranton from his home at Fayetteville, N. Y., where he has made his headquarters during the winter The players will report during the weel and on Saturday or Monday the team will start on its practice trip. Th practice schedule is not fully known here but it will include games at Lancaster, Baltimore and Newark which indicates that Griffin has arranged dates with Virginia and Atlantic league

The season opens Friday, April 29 with Scranton at home for three game each with Syracuse, Rochester, Buffale and Toronto in the order named.

There will be no change in the ar rangements of buildings and grounds at Athletic park. The diamond is in fairly good condition and can be ready pounded out 329 last season and he hit in hard luck at that. These figures is not true of the outfield which has been besieged and beset until in many never been smooth enough to insure opens and the turf will be harrrowed in places and leveled and rolled into some semblance of evenness. The away from home is shown in the fol- bleachers and grandstand were in per fect repair at the close of last season and will not require any attention now opinion it contains is a fair example of The box office and ticket service will be in charge of A. J. Duffy, of the Froth-

#### ingham theater. DIAMOND DUST.

Syracuse reports in Newark on Friday Buffalo's new grandstand will cost about \$1,000 when completed. "Dan" Shannon has ordered his Rocher ter players to report Thursday. Goodenough, with Buffalo last season

has signed with Rochester and will play at center. Providence is not greatly changed from last year. Dolan and Lewis are off their staff of pitchers and Weigan replace Canavan at second.

A New York state base ball league has been formed to include, Auburn, Canan-daigua, Palmyra, Lyons, Hornellsville and Batavia. It may be enlarged to eight

McGann, the handy wielder of the ash gned by Arthur Irwin, of the Torontos had but one fault when he covered see tendency to fight the ball. Manager Smith, of the Norfolk team, predicts that Mc-Cann will be among the leaders of the Eastern league as a hitter this year-Ex. Frank Bonner has not signed with Scranion yet, contrary to all reports that he has done so. He is at his raison on the West Side and some of his friends say that he is doing so well there that e may not go on the diamond this seaon. Of course much of the patronage f his place is drawn there by Frank himself, and his trade will naturally fall off during his absence. For this reason

he is hesitating.-Wilkes-Barre Times, Is ne? Wait and see. The Chicago team is the biggest lot of Anson, Decker, Lange, Thornton, Terry, Callahan, and Denzer are all six feet or over; Brigge, Friend, Pfeffer, Connor, and Everitt are blg men, comparatively speak-ing: Ryan, Griffith, and McCormick are above the average, and the only short men on the team are Kittridge and Dahlen, both of whom are big little men. It will certainly be Anson's giants this season. Every man on the team is in

good condition at the present time. Frank, alias "Piggy" Ward, erstwhile second baseman of the Washington team, has slid down from the Eastern to the Atlantic league. Ward is a poor imitation of a tricky ball player, and had the name in 1895 of being the chief exponent of diry ball in the Eastern league.-Detroi Journal. How well they know him.— Springfield Union, How well they don't know him. Ward is tricky, but not a "dirty" trickster. He is a Chesterfield alongside Cannavan, the promoted Spring field idol; Reilly, Greminger and severa Toronto and Syracuse players. Ward by mouthy at times, always tricky but-give the devil his due-he was never a "dirty"

## WHIRLS OF THE WHEEL.

Louis Callahan, the Buffalo racing man, says Bald will be the champion of

Wheelmen must keep to the right the road. There are riders who don't know their right hand from their left. Many female riders have applied for dmission into the Century road club of America and will undertake century rider Accidents happen in rounding street orners. When turning a corner don't ide as though you were going for a

If you must take out your bicycle in the mud, vaseline it all over, including the enameled parts, except the top rail.

This latter because the rider's clothes will rub against it. Vaseline will prevent

Wm. G. Clark, 326 Penn Ave., Scranton, Pa.

of the New Orleans team in the South- the mud drying hard on the enamel and leaving a mark when it is wiped.

A bill to establish a bureau of highways will bring with him Gonding, also of the New Orleans club, and a catcher and base stealer of no mean ability. Powell, too, is remarkably fast on the Wilkes-Barre will also have First macadamized roads, and it is supposed the Baseman Howard Goeckel, one of the

another addition and will play in the outfield. He made 113 runs in 100 at the time of this event and A. A. Zimgames and batted at .317 last year. It is possible that Powell will bring with him from New Orleans Pitcher in 1895, but was disqualified on a technicality. At present there are no American racers on the other side who are likely to enter, but there is a possibility tont some fast Americans may go there at the time of the races.

#### AT THE RINGSIDE.

Dick O'Brien and Dan Creedon may get together in a limited round bout. The National Sporting club wants 'Kid' McCoy to go against Choynski or

Frank Erne and Martin Flaherty have en matched to meet in Buffalo on April at 127 pounds. Joe Dunfee has been matched to meet Johnny Gorman, of Brooklyn, before the Rienzi Athletic club on Saturday even-

Jimmie Barry, of Chicago, and Jimmi Anthony, of Australia, have been matched or fight twenty rounds before the Nation-il Athletic club of San Francisco on April The boys will meet at 115 pounds to purse of \$2,000, 25 per cent, to go to the

The date of the fight between Eddle Connolly and "Kid" Lavigne has been set for May 4, at the Broadway Athletic club. Connolly will begin work at Fenhurst, L. L. next week. Lavigne, who is at Saginaw, Mich., will return to Oceanic, N. L. on Monday next. N. J., on Monday next,

#### WHAT OUR MUDDY ROADS COSTS.,

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000 Yearly to This Nuisance. It is an inside figure to put the amount this country annually contributes to muddy roads at \$250,000,000, which is a total loss, says Bearings. Mud does not give back anything to There is nothing reciprocal anybody. about it. It is a loss complete, absofited by that loss. In rebuilding, the sawmill, the carpenter, the painter and the plumber find a market for material

If a bank discounts a note which proves worthless, the money, while a less to the bank goes about on its mis-sion, and is not a loss without somebody's gain. Mud knows neither friend nor foe. In the natural organization of matter mud may have a place out that place is not in the read.

#### THE CRAZE STILL LASTS.

Number of Women Wheelmen is Growing All the Time.

Cycling critics say there is every in lication that the coming season will see still greater increase in the number women riders. Women who began riding last season are as enthusiastic to begin to ride again as they were

when they stopped late in the fall, The few remaining husbands, fathers and big brothers who held to the oldfashioned idea that cycling, for some unaccountable reason, such as the masculine brain delights in when womer are concerned, was unwomaniy, have cases they have capitulated and bought the desired bicycle, probably consoling themselves for the outlay with the thought that the money expended would be saved in summer silks and

Sparring Friday Night.

On Friday evening next Jim Judge, of this city, and "Red" Councily of Phila-lelphia, will spar lifteen rounds in Music Hall. There will also be an 8-round bou between "Kid" Brown, of Hartford Conn., and Ben Wilson, of Danville, this

#### BLIND, BUT STILL A BOSS. The Wonderful Power of Chris Bucks tey, of San Francisco.

From the Washington Post. "Of all the marvelous men of this age," said Judge Campbell, of San Francisco, at the Ebbitt, "I regard Chris Buckley, the ex-Democratic boss of our town, as the most wonderful. "I never fathomed the secret of his strange influence over men, nor did I ever meet with any one who could explain it. Though unable to see his hand before his face, for years he dominnted the politics of San Francisco a absolutely as Tweed or Croker ever did and in the Virginia league, and that was in New York. He was never possessed a blemish that is often seen in novices—a of any learning to speak of, but still is far from illiterate. His influence, too in other days reached far beyond the municipal limits, for up to a comparatively recent date the city was potential in the management of the entire

state's affairs; and so the blind boss really had California in his grip. "His memory was extraordinary once introduced to a person he never forgot his name, and could tell a marwith whom he had but the slightest acquaintance, after the lapse of months, by the sound of his voice. He has retired permanently from politics, and says himself that he will never engage tayers, not only in the league, but that in the game again. He is by no means ver went on to a ball field. Donahue, an old man yet, and his wealth is up in an old man yet, and his wealth is up in

the big figures." No Need of Alarm.

Man of Family-My dear, a rice trust has been formed, and there is no telling how soon rice may go up. Hetter lay in enough to last a year at least. Average American Housewife-Very well, I'll send out and buy two or three pounds,-New York Weekly,

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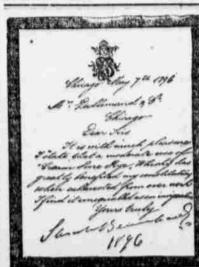
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TiME TABLE IN EFFECT JAN. 25, 1897. Trains leave Scranton for Pittston, Wilkos-Barre, etc., at 820, 2.15, 11.30 a. in., 12.45, 2.06, 2.05, 5.00, 7.10 p. m. Sundays 2.00, a. m., 1.00, 2.15, 7.10 p. m. Sundays 2.00, a. m., 1.40, 2.15, 7.10 p. m.

For Atlantic City, 8.20 a. m.

For New York, Newark and Elizabeth, 8.20 (express) a. m., 12.45 [express with Buffet parlor car), 3.06 (express) p. m. Sunday, 2.15 p. m. Train leaving 12.45 p. m. arrives at Philadelphia, Reading Terminal, 5.22 p. m. and New York 6.00 p. m.

For Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and Philadelphia, 8.20 a. m., 12.45, 5.00, 6.00 (except Philadelphia) p. in. Sunday, 2.15 p. in. 12.45, 2.05, 5.09 (except Philadelphia) p. m. Sunday, 2.15 p. m.

For Long firshch, Ocean Grove, etc., at 8.20 a. m. and 12.45 p. m.

For Lakewood, 8.29 a. m.

For Reading, Lebanon and Harrisburg, via Alientown, 8.20 a. m., 12.45, 5.00 p. m.

Sunday, 2.15 p. m.

For Pottsville, 8.29 a. m., 12.45 p. m.

Returning leave New York, foot of Liberty street, North River, at 9.10 (express) a. m., 1.10, 1.30, 4.15 (express with Buffet parlor car) p. m. Bunday, 4.30 a. m.

Leave Philadelphia, Reading Terminal, 9.00 a. m., 2.00 and 4.50 p. m. Sunday, 6.25 a. m.

Through tickets to all points at lowest For Pennsylvania Railroad points—6.45,
Returning leave New York, foot of Liberty street, North River, at 2.10 (express)
a. m., 1.10, 1.30, 4.51 (express with Buffet parlor car) p. m. Sunday, 4.30 a. m.
Leave Philadelphia, Reading Terminal, 9.00 a. m., 2.00 and 4.30 p. m. Sunday, 6.25
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Railroad—7.60 a. m.; 12.05, 3.25 (With Black Diamond Express) 9.5(2, 11.30 p. m.
From Carbondale and the north—6.40, 740, 4.00 p. m.; 12.00 noon; 1.05, 2.14, 2.85 a.75, 6.45, 7.45, 7.45, 7.45, 9.45 and 11.25 p. m.
From Wilkes-Barre and the south—6.40, 7.50, 8.50, 10.10, 11.55 a. m.; 1.16, 2.14, 2.45, 2.45, 2.55, 4.57, 6.45, 7.45, 9.45 and 11.25 p. m.
From Wilkes-Barre and the south—6.40, 7.50, 8.50, 10.10, 11.55 a. m.; 1.16, 2.14, 2.45, 2.45, 2.45, 2.55, 4.57, 6.45, 7.45, 9.45 and 11.25 p. m.
From Wilkes-Barre and the south—6.40, 7.50, 8.50, 10.10, 11.55 a. m.; 1.16, 2.14, 2.45, 2





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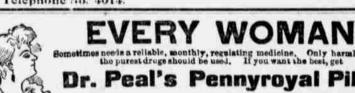
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PENNSYLVANIA Trains Leave Wilkes-Barre as Follows 7.30 a. m., week days, for Sunbury, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Balti-more, Washington, and for Pitts-

burg and the West. 10.15 a. m., week days, for Hazleton, Pottsville, Reading, Norristown, and Philadelphia; and for Sun-bury, Harrisburg, Philadelphia,

Baltimore, Washington and Pitts burg and the West. 3.15 p. m., week days, for Sunbury, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Pittsburg and the West.

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For Pittston and Wilkes-Barre via. D.
L. & W. R. R., 6.09, 8.08, 11.25 a. m., 1.55
2.40, 6.09 and 8.47 p. m.
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For Bethlehem, Easton, Reading, Harrisburg and principal intermediate stations via D. & H. R. R. 6.45, 7.45 a. m., 12.05, 1.20, 2.33 (Black Diamond Express), 4.41 and 11.30 p. m.
For Tunkhannock, Towanda, Eimira, Ithaca, Geneva and principal intermediato stations via D. L. & W. R. R., 6.00, 8.08, 2.55, a. m., 12.20 and 2.40 p. m.
For Geneva, Rochester, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Chicago and all points west via D. & H. R. R., 7.45 a. m., 12.65, 2.33 (Black Diamond Express), 9.50 and 11.30 p. m.
Fullman parlor and sleeping or Lehigh Vailey chair cars on all trains between Wilkes-Barre and New York, Philadei, phia, Buffalo and Suspension Bridge.
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DELAWAREAND
HUDSON TIME
TABLE.
On Monday, Nov. 23,
trains will leave Scranton as follows:
For Carbondale—5.15,
7.56, 8.55, 16.15, a. m.;
12.00 noon; 1.21, 2.20, 3.52,
5.25, 6.25, 7.57, 9.10, 10.30,
71.55 D. m. 5.25, 6.25, 7.57, 9.10, 10.30, For Albany, Saratoga, Montreal, Bos-on, New England points, etc.—5.45 a. m.; 2.20 p. m. For Honesdale—5.45, 8.55, 10.15 a. m.; 12.00 10.45 a. m. 12.05, 1.20, 2.25, 2.32, 4.41, 6.00, 7.50, 9.30, 11.39 p. m. For New York, Philadelphia, etc., via Lehigh Valley Railroad—6.45, 7.45 a. m.; 12.65; 1.20, 3.33 (with Black Diamond Express), 11.30 p. m. For Pennsylvania Railroad points—6.45, 9.38 a. m.; 2.30, 4.41 p. m. For western points, via Lehigh Valley For western points, via Lehigh Valley For western points, via Lehigh Valley

Del., Lacka, and Western,

Effect Monday, October 19, 1896. Trains leave Scranton as follows: Ex-ress for New York and all points East, 40, 2.50, 5.15, 8.00 and 9.55 a. m.; 1.10 and 2.33 p. m.
Express for Easton, Trenton, Philadelphia and the South, 5.15, 8.00 and 9.55 a. m.
Express for Easton, Trenton, Philadelphia and the South, 5.15, 8.00 and 9.55 a. m.
Li0 and 3.33 p. m.
Washington and way stations, 3.45 p. m.
Tobyhanna accommodation, 6.10 p. m.
Express for Binghamton, Oswego, Elmira, Corning, Bath, Dansville, Mount
Morris and Buffalo, 12.20, 2.35 a. m., and 1.55
p. m., making close connections at Buffalo
to all points in the West, Northwest and
Southwest.
Bath accommodation, 9.15 a. m.

Bath accommodation, 9.15 a. m. Binghamton and way stations, 1.65 p. m. Nicholson accommodation, 5.15 p. m. Binghamton and Elmira express, 5.55 p. m. Express for Utica and Richfield Springs, 2.35 a. m. and 1.55 p. m. Ithaca 2.35 and Bath 9.15 a. m., and 1.55 Ithaca 2.35 and Bath 9.15 a. m., and 1.55 p. m.
For Northumberland, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Plymouth, Bloomsburg and Danville, making close connection at Northumberland for Williamsport, Harrisburg, Baltimore, Washington and the South. Northumberland and intermediate stations, 6.00, 9.55 a. m., and 1.55 and 6.00 p. m. Nanticoke and intermediate stations, 8.40 and 8.47 p. m.
Pullman parlor and sleeping coaches on all express trains.
For detailed information, pocket time tables, etc., apply to M. L. Smith, city ticket office, 228 Lackawanna avenue, or depot ticket office.

Eric and Wyoming Valley, Effective Jan. 4, 1897.
Trains will leave Scranton for New York. Newburgh and intermediate points on Eric, also for Hawley and local points, at 7.05 a. m. and 2.28 p. m.; and arrive from above points at 10.33 a. m. and 9.38 p. m.



In Effect October 4th, 1896. Stations Sta Stations P MARTIVE Leave

1 15 Hancock Junction
1 09
Hancock Junction
1 109
Hancock Junction
1 1246
Preston Park
1 240
Como
1 255
Poyntelle
1 140
Pleasant Mt,
1 159
Uniondale
1 1 49
Forest City
1 1 54
Carbondale
1 1 49
White Bridge 

SCHANTON DIVISION.