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BASEBALL LEAGUE HAS HAD A HARD FIGHT FOR LEASE ON LIFE

Civil Strife First Threatened To Knock All Plans of the Promoters Sky High, But This Has Ended.

LATEST ATTACK FROM SEVERAL KNOCKERS.

They Have Prevailed Upon Sporting Writers to Send Out Material Against the Indiana-Ohio Circuit.

(By Tort.)

Since the new Indiana-Ohio baseball league was organized early in January this year, it has had a stormy career. Men less sturdy and with less fighting blood in their veins than the promoters of this infant league, would have thrown up the sponge and retired from the arena long since.

Civil strife first rent the league and it was generally predicted after the tempestuous meeting held at Van Wert that Frank Runyan and Harry Hall, who drew steel against their brother magnates, had delivered a death blow to the organization. With the league apparently drawing its last breath from the effects of the wounds administered by Runyan and Hall, Clarence Jessup and Frank Gamble got together and saved the life of the "patient," and put it on its feet again stronger than before. The latest attack that has been made on the league comes from some knockers, whose identity is suspected, but not positively known. These knockers prevailed upon a sporting editor at Muncie to come out with a statement to the effect that Muncie and Anderson would withdraw from the league and would enter the "Trolley League," with several smaller cities in eastern Indiana. This statement, it has been discovered on investigation, is not pure and simple, but its effect has done the league no good, as such yarns can

not help but destroy the confidence in the hearts of the fans throughout the circuit.

Despite the staggering blows that have been handed to the I-O league, it is still on its feet and will be in the ring when the umpire calls out their cheery "play ball" about the first of May. Monday Karl Kepler of the Muncie Starr and Caples Foster of the Van Wert Bulletin, will meet in Richmond with Secretary Poundstone, and at this meeting the constitution and bylaws of the league will be prepared. Thursday next a league meeting will be held at Anderson.

BASEBALL GOSSIP.

A Piqua dispatch has the following to say:

Local support will not be depended upon entirely for the Piqua base ball team of the Indiana-Ohio league, but a score of towns in this and adjoining counties will be interested enough in a good quality of ball to attend the games.

It is possible that a number of games will be played with independent teams before the regular league season starts and Manager Sank is making every effort to get his club together in time for these games.

Sidney Versailles, Troy, Covington, Bradford, Urbana and a number of other places will want to see the Piqua team a leader in the race for the pennant and will support the game here nobly. A Versailles newspaper suggests that there are a number of splendid ball players in that section who would be glad of a berth on the Piqua team.

The committee who are in charge of getting out the necessary subscriptions to make up the total needed to start the Piqua base ball team, this season, are out and at work, among the men interested in seeing the thing go. A number who are not particularly interested in base ball will help start the club, just for the good it will do the city.

It is hoped that the full amount will soon be subscribed. Manager Sank wants to start right, when he does start. It would be very foolish to enter on a season in a league like the I-O, without a substantial amount to go on. It is not thought that there will be any need to draw on the capital after the club goes to playing, but money will be required to post the \$200 forfeit, that the team will play the season out, and to properly equip the men. That sum with the necessary advances for players to get here counts up. That it will all come back to the club and much more looks like a sure thing as the plans now stand. Let every one root for the new Piqua base ball team.—Piqua Exchange.

The promoters of the I-O league

have taken special pains in the selection of the cities for the league and as the result of such preference, a league has been formed in which the traveling expenses, the death of many a good league, will be placed at a low figure. The longest jump that any team will be compelled to make, is from Piqua to Van Wert, a distance of 92 miles and the shortest from Muncie to Anderson, a distance of 19 miles. The largest city in the league is Muncie with a population of about 35,000 and the smallest being Van Wert with about 1,000 citizens.

The Bluffton Bainer has this to say of a player who appeared many times at the Washington street park last season: "The long deferred but inevitable has happened: Gus Vogel has gone to work. This morning he threw ethics of a base ball player to the four winds, donned the uniform of labor, taking a job, not a position, at the King piano factory. His photograph will appear in a current issue."

The street car company at Muncie has announced its intention to extend one of its main lines a distance of four blocks for the accommodation of patrons of the Indiana-Ohio league base ball team. The Muncie organization is that formerly known as the Shamrocks.

The Indiana-Ohio, along with every other league in the country, is making a diligent search for pitching talent. Good box artists, men who play their positions with intelligence and vim are scarce, very scarce in every class.

Manager Hunt has virtually closed an arrangement for the surplus pitcher of a fast minor league team, in a nearby city. He desires to add at least five men to the present corps for the spring try-out.—Van Wert Exchange.

The addition of Hamilton gives to the Indiana-Ohio the appearance of the strongest six club organization in the middle west. It is understood that the organization will stand pat on its present lineup—Richmond, Muncie, Anderson, Hamilton, Piqua and Van Wert.—Piqua Exchange.

Piqua is carefully nursing several propositions for players which, if carried out, will cause the other teams of the Indiana-Ohio league to perform the old time stunt of "sitting up and taking notice."

My goodness, how silly those Kokomo papers can be. The Tribune in a recent issue, still smarting from the fall that burg received when the I-O league promoters heaved it outside the ramparts, slaps the league to sleep and hands Richmond a crate of quinces in the following outburst of skyrockets:

"The King-Gamble contingent has

effectually broken up the Indiana-Ohio league by the use of high-handed and unfair methods, if the verdict of the fans is to be believed. Richmond, the poorest town in Indiana, has been retained, and yet it is a matter of record that with the exception of the Sunday games the attendance at the Quaker town was so slim that the management had to dig into its pocket for guarantee money every game last summer. What is left of the old Indiana-Ohio, a few non-paying towns, expect to play ball, but it is believed that none of them will contrive to get a team in the field.

Frank Runyan refused to come into the I-O league if the organization was to be under national protection. Frank had an outlaw player, Ves. Maggart, and he would have been unable to play him had the league secured protection. Now comes the heart-breaking report that Maggart has been sold by Pittsburg to the Rochester team of the Eastern League. What is worse, Ves comes out with the statement that he will play with Rochester.

Southern Pacific's Claim. Washington, Feb. 22.—President Roosevelt consulted with Chairman Miller of the house committee on claims the question of reimbursing the Southern Pacific Railroad company to the extent of \$1,000,000, the amount expended in repairing the break in the Colorado river. Hearings regarding the claim are to be begun by the committee Monday. The money was spent by the railroad company pursuant to what it regarded as an understanding that the government should bear the expense.

Black Hand After a Minister. New York, Feb. 22.—Fire was discovered in the Orient Congregational church at Greenport, L. I., the pastor of which, Rev. Dr. John Alexander Gray, received in the collection box at the church service, a warning that the "Black Hand" was still after him. The damage to the church will amount to only about \$500, as Dr. Gray discovered the fire, before it had secured much headway. A year ago, after receiving similar warnings, Dr. Gray's house was robbed.

Strange Disease of Tongue. New York, Feb. 22.—For the second time in two years Miss Myra Silvernale of Norfolk, Conn., is in a New York hospital suffering from a disease of the tongue, which is said to have been contracted through contact with postage stamps, while she was engaged as an assistant in the Norfolk postoffice. The disease is exceedingly painful and the hospital surgeons are at a loss to account for it, but believe it to be the result of poisoning.

VIRGINIA: Gold Medal Flour makes delicious baked goods.

CITY POLO LEAGUE HAS PROVEN TO BE GREATER SUCCESS THAN EXPECTED

The City Polo league of six teams has been going since January 15, and has been a great success. The Kibbeys now lead, but all the teams are about equal in strength. The following bunch of averages will be of interest to the polo fans:

RUSHERS.			
Player.	Club.	Rushes.	Goals.
Marine, Crescents	28	14	0
Bayer, Kibbeys	20	9	1
Fosler, Crescents	0	7	0
Allison, Greeks	25	7	0
H. Karns, Greeks	6	6	1
Bulla, Greeks	0	6	1
Jenley, Kibbeys	3	5	0
Sauers, Empires	0	3	1
Reid, Krones	0	3	0
Helmeck, Beallview	1	2	0
Cox, Crescents	2	2	0
Rhoe, Beallview	7	1	0
Carroll, Empires	2	1	0
Clark, Empires	2	1	0
Highley, Crescents	1	1	0
Meyers, Krones	0	1	0
Harris, Beallview	0	1	0
Craighead, Krones	0	0	0
Sharp, Beallview	3	3	0
Noland, Empires	5	2	0

Affairs of the Sporting World

About \$100,000 will be spent in the south this spring by the major league teams in training there.

It is said that Fred Tenney will soon get in the Giant fold. The New York club has assurances that the first baseman will be on hand for the training trip.

Harry McCormick will probably be first choice for the middle garden assignment with the National Philites. He should prove a great running mate for the incomparable Magee.

Pitcher Hogg, of the New York Americans, has asked his manager to relieve him of coaching duty the coming season. He had a clash with Umpire Sheridan last season, and he was fired from the game. He didn't like the experience and wants no more runnings.

"Don't pit me against the Lajoie brigade," is Billy Hogg's advice to Clark Griffith, "but use me twice in every series against the Athletics, the White Sox and the Tigers. Those are the fellows I can trim if I get half the breaks of the game."

"Happy Jack" Chesbro is at Hot

CENTERS.			
Name.	Club.	Rushes.	Goals.
Haas, Greeks	0	1	1
Petzer, Kibbeys	0	0	0
Harrison, Crescents	0	0	0
Weist, Beallview	0	0	0
Ryan, Krones	0	0	0
Bradfield, Empires	0	0	1
Jones, Empires	0	0	2
Lewis, Crescents	0	0	0

HALF BACKS.				
Name.	Club.	Rushes.	Goals.	Fouls.
Oesting, Empires	..	0	1	0
Swain, Krones	0	1	5
Beseke, Greeks	0	0	0
Stolle, Beallview	..	0	0	0
Newman, Kibbeys	..	0	0	1
Norman, Crescents	..	0	0	2
Snaveley easily leads the goal tenders with a percentage of 300. His good work has aided the Kibbeys considerably in keeping the lead. The averages of all the goal tenders follows				

GOAL TENDERS.			
Player.	Club.	Chances.	Stops.
Lancaster, Krones	124	105	840
Snaveley, Kibbeys	30	27	980
Geyer, Crescents	100	88	888
Steinkamp, Greeks	160	90	802
Moore, Beallview	72	65	875
Comer, Empires	101	84	831
Stolle, Beallview	19	9	470

Springs training to take on flesh instead of losing it. He is now 20 pounds under his regular playing figure, but he has been superintending the lumber jacks in the camp at Conway, Mass., and is hard as nails.

"I bested Waddell in a great game in Chicago in 1906," said Clark Griffith, "by a score of 1 to 0, the contest going 14 innings. A youngster batted in the only run of the game with a two-bagger after striking out four times on his former trips to the plate."

The new uniforms for the Reds have been ordered and they will be quite handsome. The traveling suits will be gray and the home clothes white, with black collars and a black seam down the outside of the trousers. Both suits will have red caps, belts and stockings.

Manager Murray believes that Ed Grant will be the third base sensation of the National league next season. Grant did very well last year under severe handicaps. First of all, he didn't report until June and secondly he split his throwing hand after play-

ing a dozen or so of games. A Detroit paper says that Pitcher Dygert was all in during the closing days of the season last year. During the last 10 days Dygert pitched three shutout games in four days, which established a league record, so the only fault of the Detroit critic is that he missed the truth by several miles.

Judge Munson. Butte, Mont., Feb. 22.—Judge Ignace T. E. Munson, whose death is announced at New Haven, Conn., presided at the first legal trial ever held in the then territory of Montana, and was one of the pioneers of the state. Judge Munson was appointed United States associate justice for Montana by President Lincoln in 1865. The first sight that greeted Judge Munson upon his arrival at Helena was the body of a man dangling from a tree.

Charge Against a Minister. Greensburg, Pa., Feb. 22.—Charged with having administered a beating to Jennie Sutton, 15, with a pick handle, the Rev. P. D. Runyan, a Baptist minister, principal of the West Derry schools, was fined \$10 and costs by an alderman and deposed by the school board. The services of a physician were required by the girl.

West is in the Race. Columbus, O., Feb. 22.—State Senator Samuel H. West announced that he will be a candidate for the nomination for lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket. Speaker of the House Freeman T. Egleston of Guernsey county is also a candidate for the Republican nomination to the same office.

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