

The Northwestern League News

GREAT FALLS, Mont., February 13.—The base ball buzzes in the local rattle of the national game and with Manager Hester on the job to remain until the migration to the spring climate there should be still more activity as the days proceed. No site has been named for conditioning the squad, but it is quite expected that the men will be sent into training camp somewhere on the coast so as to be near the scene of opening toil. Last year the team trained at Everett, Wash. The Great Falls Club now has 15 men under contract, including Hester. The outfield and infield are fixed. Hester will play first base, as usual; George Rudy, a sensational infielder and a reliable sticker, will go to second; Harry McArdle to short, and Tony Boeckel to third. If McArdle fails Hester will use "Izzy" Garrity at shortfield. Hester recently acquired Bob Messenger from the Chattanooga Club, of the Southern League, in exchange for Les Sheehan, utility man. In addition to the latter the club now has Jim Kelly, an outfielder who was purchased from Memphis last season; Johnny Bender, who has been playing great ball in the Arizona Copper League, and Jules Appa for outfield toil. Battery material is a bit shy, although Hester has five pitchers contracted. "Red" Toner and Jimmy Clark, both of last year's team, are on the list, with Sherman Jones, a sensational youngster obtained from Bill Bernhard, of the Salt Lake Club. Jack Bromley, a left-hander, has been signed after a good year in the Arizona Copper League. Hester also has a young phenom coming from an independent league in the Central States. It is in the back-dropping department that the club shows the greatest lack. Chet Byler, a youngster, is the only catcher on the list. Both Crisp and Haworth are gone, the latter by draft, to the Birmingham Club, and the former by outright release.

Seattle Nearly Has a Team

SEATTLE, Wash., February 13.—Manager Bill Leard, who has been working very quietly on his plans for 1917, came to bat this week with the results of his gum-shoeing. His announcement was that his team had practically been completed with the exception of a first baseman, and that when he gets the man he is after for that position he will be ready for the training bell. This is the list of players lined up as announced by the manager of the Giants: Catchers, Cunningham and Hayes; pitchers, Kline, Herck, Lund, Schmutz, Eastly, McIvor, Wolfram; first base, open; second base, Bill Leard; shortstop, Ayan and Morse; third base, Murphy; left field, Cunningham; center field, Kroy; right field, Deane and Boldt. Leard's announcement that he had landed Herb Murphy to play third was an agreeable surprise. Murphy will be remembered as the player whose work at third for Spokane in 1915 was a feature of that team's play. Murphy is a sweet hitter and a brilliant fielder. He was sold to Salt Lake by Spokane during the season, where he hung on a while and only lost out because he was switched to second instead of being allowed to handle his old position. Murphy will fit in well with the Giants. The signing of a youngster named Clarke Boldt, a Berkeley twirler, who has been creating quite a stir in semi-pro circles down South, will make another addition to the outfield. Boldt is pronounced by Leard as a fine hitter, and he will be given a chance to show his skill this spring. That Bill Finneran will be the only member of last year's umpire staff to hold down a job this season is the announcement by President Blewett. Blewett has lines out for a couple of good men, and plans to give Northwestern League followers a high grade of umpiring this coming season.

Tacoma Signs Pierce

TACOMA, Wash., February 13.—After a busy month, during which he signed

The Happenings in the Central League

DAYTON, O., February 20.—The Board of Directors of the Dayton Base Ball Company held a meeting Friday and ratified the deal put through Thursday regarding the new home of the club to be situated at Wright Field. A session of the club's stockholders will be held for sometime next week and at its gathering the directors will urge the unanimous approval of all concerned in going up with the proposition.

OTHER PLANS MADE

Another step towards getting this ready for the coming season was taken by the Dayton Amusement Company. This organization will have charge of the building of the Vets' plant at Wright field. The company will be incorporated for \$15,000, and the papers filed for at once. The names of the incorporators are Frank Reibold, W. W.

four or five recruits for his 1917 base ball club, consummated a real big base ball deal, landed catcher Stevens and second sacker Lloyd for his Bengal clan, besides attending to his business at the "sliding" rink. President Rus Hall has now turned his attention to the old guard. Last week he sent contracts to last year's Tigers, who did such good work in landing a first-division berth. The players on Hall's reserve list and to whom contracts have been forwarded are catcher Baldwin, pitchers Al Bonner, "Bicky" Williams, Alexander and Sutherland; Earl Thompson, first base; "Toots" Bankhead and Joe Connelly, outfielders. In addition to the above nine, Hall forwarded contracts to catcher Stevens and infielder Lloyd, who have been transferred from the Denver reserve list to the Tacoma team. The contracts to the old players are going out in plenty of time, however, as the rules of Organized Ball give the club owner until March to deliver the contracts. Hall expects to hear from his former players shortly and doesn't anticipate any hold-outs in the crew. The Tiger owner received the contract of Thomas Pierce, an outfielder from the Arizona League, last week. Pierce is highly recommended by Northwestern League players who have seen him in action. He hit over the .300 mark last season and is reported to be a good lead-off man. Herb Hester, manager of the Great Falls team, who formerly played with him, says he will make good.

The News of Vancouver

VANCOUVER, B. C., February 14.—Bob Brown, peppery manager and president of the Vancouver Beavers, is busy lining up his 1917 ball tossing squad and judging from reports from the British Columbia metropolis he will have a neat team in the field. The fiery-haired leader's team finished in the cellar last year, but this is not the usual fate of a Brown club and he wants to convince the base ball public of the Northwest that he can pull up into the running once more. Brown has been in the Northwestern League for about ten years and has copped his share of the plums. The Vancouver leader's team will have a number of new faces. Roy Brown, his second sacker, has been traded to Butte, and "Pop" Arlett, the pitcher who refused to report for last season's work, has been sold to the Oakland Coasters. Brown will get a couple of youngsters from the Oakland team in exchange who should help fill the gaps. Contracts have been sent to catchers Cheek, Follman and Patterson; pitchers Acosta, Russell, Hood, Smith and Clink; infielders Carl, Coen, Moore and Hamilton. It is not believed that Carl or Moore will answer the call, however. Outfielders Brinker and Ike Wolfert, former Tiger outfielder, are also on the reserve list. He has a number of recruits signed also. Brown is said to be after Harry Scharnweber, veteran shortstop, to steady his infield. Lester Patterson, the Tacoma City League catcher, may sign with the Beavers. Bob Brown is anxious to give him a try-out, it is said. Patterson is attending high school in Tacoma at present and has not decided whether he wants to leave his studies or not.

Dugdale Signs Billy Sullivan

SEATTLE, Wash., February 19.—From his fruit ranch at Newberg, Ore., Billy Sullivan, famous old catcher of the Chicago White Sox, today sent his signed contract to the Seattle Northwestern League Base Ball Club. Sullivan and D. E. Dugdale, owner of the Seattle Club, came to terms several days ago and the veteran catcher will wear a Seattle uniform next season. Although his big league days are over, Sullivan still has a lot of good minor league ball in him, and Dugdale believes that the veteran will go well in the league. With Sullivan and Tom Cunningham, of last year's team, Seattle will start the season well fortified behind the bat.

A FIFTEEN YEAR LEASE.

The work of getting the park in shape was given over to Williams and Schenck, local architects, who have guaranteed the Vet officials to have the plant ready for business by May first. The new park will be modern in every respect, and the plans call for a seating capacity of 5,000. Out of this number of seats, 3,500 will be grandstand and 1,500 bleachers. The plant will be so erected that 1,000 additional grandstand and bleacher seats can be added next season if the company sees fit to do so. Mr. Williams will leave Sunday for Evans-

ville to look over the Evans Park, and pick up any pointers that may prove valuable in the construction of the local plant.

MORE PLAYERS SIGN

Two more Vet regulars weighed in with their contracts, the papers coming from outfielder Harry Storch and pitcher Left Whitehouse. Davis, a recruit twirler also sent in his contract. The manner in which the players have been coming across with their contracts is a source of much pleasure to Manager Nee, and Johnny is confident he will have his entire squad in the fold by the time arrives for the men to report.

BOB HUSTED.

A Bid for Manager's Job

MUSKEGON, Mich., February 19.—Mike Malloy, former scout for the Chicago Nationals, made a desperate effort recently to walk across Lake Michigan in order to obtain the position of manager of the Muskegon Central League team. Mike learned that the job was open. He started from Milwaukee for Muskegon, via Grand Haven. The steamer became stuck in the ice for two days. Finally he left the boat and after a perilous trip reached the Michigan shore. When Mike got to Grand Haven he found the interurban car to Muskegon was late. When he did get to his destination he was told Jimmy Hamilton had been appointed manager.

Base Ball at Cut-Rate Prices

SOUTH BEND, Ind., February 20.—Ten thousand season tickets, good for

Sayings and Doings in the Texas League

DALLAS, Tex., February 19.—Bie-loper, a young infielder secured by Gardner, before he retired, has been inspected by Patterson and he is sweet on this boy and predicts he will make the league sit up and take notice. Pat also has signed Smith, an outfielder from San Diego Winter League circles, and reports that this lad is some outfielder.

While here, Patterson denounced in no uncertain terms the report started at Houston that the Dallas Club would be used as a farm for the Vernon Club, just because Patterson and White played with the above club. This report was taken up by a local paper and great capital made of it. "I do not know where such a report came from," said Pat, "and so I do not see why anyone would publish a thing of this kind, when it is so void of fact. We purpose getting a good team together and will hold onto every first-class man we secure as our own property. The Dallas Club will not be a farm for any club, and if we do send a youngster up once in a while he will go where the best opportunity offers."

By the above statement one will readily see how groundless the farm rumor was and the fans can rest assured that no such arrangement exists and I trust this will set at rest all such rumors throughout the circuit. The Coast League has always been opposed to the farm system and Patterson became thoroughly imbued by this spirit and certainly does not intend to carry out the idea with the Dallas Club.

By vote of the sporting editors of Dallas Dailies, the Dallas Texas League Club has been nicknamed the Submarines. Ham Patterson is gathering a crew with the especial intention of scuttling Ellis Hardy's Navigators, which have controlled the high seas in this circuit in recent years, hence the nickname.

Galveston's Faith in Port Arthur

GALVESTON, Tex., February 20.—President Dolson, of the Galveston Club, is not disturbed over the news from Austin. Said he: "I never shared the optimism of President Morris in regard to Austin, and I do not think that a majority of the magnates really want Austin in the league. The capital has been a source of trouble to the circuit in every year that it has endeavored to maintain a franchise. It was to offset the poor crowds there that the guarantee was raised from \$50 to \$75—and Austin promptly dropped out when the hoist occurred. If Austin could not support a club with a \$50-a-day guarantee in 1914, why expect it to make good with a \$75 guarantee in 1917? The proposition of Port Arthur's replacing Galveston seemed more feasible to me from the start. Ed Stedman was thoroughly in touch

seventy games of Central League Base Ball, and selling for \$1.50, per book, is the bargain being offered the base ball public of South Bend. The ten-day campaign which is being staged by Ed Smith, local owner, and the Chamber of Commerce, started with a host of volunteer assistants. Early reports on the sale of books indicate that the public is snatching at the bargain, and if the sale continues no trouble at all should be experienced in disposing of the entire number.

Terre Haute Drops Out

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., February 18.—Formal and definite announcement is made that the local franchise in the Central League will be surrendered to the league, so far as the backers here are concerned, and if a ball club is operated here the league will have to make the arrangements. The players of the club have been sold and the organization will disband. It is possible the franchise will be transferred to Saginaw, though President Dickerson, of the league, says the territory will be retained, indicating he yet hopes to put a team in here. The territory cannot be held unless operated.

Hamilton to Manage Muskegon

MUSKEGON, Mich., February 19.—President Charles W. Marsh, head of the Muskegon Central League Base Ball Club, and James Hamilton, of Chicago, have just signed an agreement whereby Hamilton becomes manager of the local team. The new local leader will play third base for the Reds. He is 30 years old and has been in professional ball for 12 years.

with the situation there, and he was certain when he went to the Houston meeting that Port Arthur could be persuaded to go in. I have not yet heard from President Morris in regard to his trip to either Port Arthur or Beaumont, but I have heard encouraging reports regarding Port Arthur's attitude elsewhere."

New Players for Shreveport

SHREVEPORT, La., February 20.—At least three new players will wear Shreveport uniforms during the coming Texas League season, according to announcement following the recent annual meeting of the stockholders. Ray Sherer, an outfielder, last season with the Quincy Club, of the I. I. I. League, and Emmet Cain, who played in 1916 with Charleston, of the South Atlantic League, have been bought, \$500 to be paid for Sherer if retained after April 15. The third new player is Goldie Betts, acquired from Fort Worth for Ray Bernsen. Shortstop Joe Kneaves, last year with the Gassers, has been released outright, according to Secretary W. A. Sullivan. The Gassers' new park is being rapidly constructed with a grand stand being erected at a cost of \$10,000. It will seat about 4500 spectators, with plenty of space, of course, for overflow crowds, and if Syd Smith continues his progress pennantward next season as anticipated, all the space will be needed, for Shreveport's interest in base ball has never been so keen as it is at this time. The stockholders re-elected the same directors for the ensuing season. They are Capt. W. T. Crawford, Capt. W. F. Dillon, M. A. Stanton, A. G. Curtis and W. A. Sullivan. The same officers are expected to be re-elected, namely, Capt. W. T. Crawford, president; M. A. Stanton, vice-president, and W. A. Sullivan, secretary.

Austin Won't Take Galveston's Club

AUSTIN, Tex., February 19.—It has developed that the business men of Austin have about abandoned the project for taking over the franchise of the Galveston Club, of the Texas League, principally because they regard the price asked as excessive. In fact the price must be cut in two before further consideration is given the purchase of the franchise. In addition to this, the chances for securing the right man to manage the club seem remote. The business men who have so far interested themselves in the movement to have Austin reenter the league insist that under no circumstances will they subscribe money until the proper man to handle the club financially and other wise is engaged. According to one of the prime leaders in the movement to take over the franchise, there is little chance of Austin having league base ball this season.

News Notes and Highlights

President Dickerson, of the Central League, says Terre Haute was not dropped from the circuit, and the I. I. I. League will be called to account for tampering with Central territory.

Harry Stewart, although he has given up base ball as a means of livelihood, is scouting for the San Antonio Club, in the Texas League. He is trying to sign Bobby Meusel for the Texas League club.

Tom and "Brownie" Sullivan, well-known semi-professional ball players of Murphysboro, Ill., have just been signed to play with Port Wayne, of the Central League.

Manager Red Calhoun, of Wilkes-Barre, has signed pitcher Dolan, a right-hander, who was

in the Interstate League last year, and the Hamilton Club, in the Canadian League, the previous year. Dolan comes highly recommended by several of Calhoun's friends who are competent to judge ball players. Calhoun declares he is also after an outfielder and an infielder.

Pitcher Howell, formerly of Vancouver, Northwestern League, is being sought by Manager Chic Hartman, of the Binghamton New York State League team. Colwell is owned by Brooklyn, which drafted him from Vancouver last season. Vancouver has first claim on the player if he is returned to Class B, but inasmuch as Colwell is opposed to playing in the West, it is believed that some kind of a deal can be arranged that will lead him with the Binghamton.