

LATEST SPORTING NEWS

CRUCIAL TEST ON TOMORROW

ELGIN COMES WITH DOUBLE PURPOSE.

To Lose to Elgin Would Reduce Lead Materially.

Fourth of July may seem with public interest right now and the discussed air flights may also be taking a due amount of interest, but show us anything that is attracting more general attention than tomorrow's baseball game between Elgin and La Grande. Both teams are peppered with different reasons, and the outcome should be a nut that can only be cracked when the game is over. Elgin, though on the ascendancy because of recent victories, and because of her secure second place in the league, cares not so much to help gain the flag by winning the game tomorrow as she does for the exhilarating experience of defeating La Grande. That was sweetness toned up to tooth-watering taste last Sunday—for the Elgin fans. It was the first time this year that the Elginites could turn the trick and they want to do it again, badly. The game tomorrow, from a La Grande standpoint will come close to clinching the pennant, if won, and if lost it will mean that the finish alone must give us the flag, if we get it. Then too, what is of much interest will be the appearance in La Grande of the much talked of "Mysterious" Mitchell, who will pitch for Elgin. His work is superior to the average gatling gun. The pitching of this phenom will be a study tomorrow at the Lincoln ball park.

The game will be called at 3 o'clock promptly.

LOCAL SPORTLETS, COMMENT AND THE LIKE.

Not a few fishermen forget, or don't know that it is unlawful to attempt to catch fish within 200 feet from any dam. This is flagrantly violated at

Automobile News and Gossip

Influences of the Union County Motor club will be felt in Union county, of course, but Wallowa county will derive a benefit if steps taken to repair the road in Nine Mile canyon are successful. One of the first propositions taken out by the good roads branch of the local motor club at its meeting of directors this week was the matter of roads in sister counties. Between La Grande and Joseph there is a fine line of roads—with one exception. There are many sharp rocks in the long road which make it hazardous for autos to penetrate that region. Secretary A. V. Andrews has been instructed to confer with the county court of Wallowa county relative to having the rocks removed, the ultimate outcome being that if the roads are improved by the removal of the rocks then both counties will mutually benefit. The Wallowa hill has just been put into good, passable shape, and it will be possible to go to Wallowa county with first class roads—in dry weather—when the rocks are removed. It seems certain this will be done though the matter has only just been gotten under way.

That it is a violation of the law to paint signs on automobiles is the interpretation placed upon the law by Secretary of the State Olcott. Only two numbers are allowed and one must be placed in front and one in the rear. To paint other numbers would therefore, be illegal. Practically every auto owner in applying for num-

bers wants his old number on some particular number. This is a request which can be granted to no one, as it would completely confuse and disarrange the records in the office.

Baker, June 23.—(Special)—At a meeting of the Baker Commercial club held last evening, it was decided to have automobile races in connection with the exhibition of aerial navigation to be given by Eugene Ely, the noted aviator, in this city, some time early next month.

A large number of auto owners and representatives of local garages were present, and all spoke in favor of the plan. The idea in planning additional attractions for the event, is to give the people a full afternoon of sport. Mr. Dodd, the representative of Mr. Ely, was present and stated that Ely would co-operate in such a plan, and would give short demonstrations with his machine between races and conclude the afternoon with a race with an automobile and a long flight. The aeroplane exhibition alone would not occupy the full afternoon, and the arrangements now being worked up mean a big day of rare sport, as auto races as well as an air ship, are new to Baker.

It is planned to offer prizes for each race and to grade the entering of cars into classes, so that each event would be evenly matched. If the arrangements are carried out Baker will have an afternoon of sport of a high class, such as was never before staged in this city.

make good their claims. Cove always did turn out some good ball players, and the coming generation will soon be clamoring to get in the big little brush aggregation.

Messrs Nels Holverson, Allan Parker, Charles Webb and Ben Coiner of Hilgard, returned Thursday from a several days' fishing trip on Beaver creek, and report good fishing, every member of the party being able to get the limit provided by the state game laws.

Two league ball games will be played at Union Saturday and Sunday, when the Baker aggregation will go down to battle with the Union warriors on the Union lot. Oswald the

BIG STARS ARE SHORT LIVED

FINDS SCINTILLATE FOR A TIME THEN FADE.

Jiggs Donohue an Example of This Rule in Baseball.

The greater the star the quicker the fall seems to be a cardinal principle in baseball. The good average player goes along year after year, sticking to the same old pace and holding on to his job by steady, grinding work. The star, however, lives up to his name. He shines and flashes and dies out almost in a breath.

There are many who could be named to illustrate the example. Nealon, the Pirate first baseman of three or four years ago, was one. On the coast he bloomed up in a day almost, and the crowds went wild over his sensational play. Then Pittsburg grabbed him up at the highest price ever paid for a minor leaguer, and he rose to his height and fell back into mediocrity in the short space of six months. The Pirates couldn't get rid of him quickly enough, and you never hear of him as a ball player after that.

"Jiggs" Donohue, once of the Chicago Sox, is another. After playing average ball for several seasons in the minors he suddenly sprang into fame as a first sacker who "ate 'em up." So Comiskey grabbed him off, and he lasted for a very few years. In the world series of 1906 his work was the sensation against the Cubs. That was the supreme time of his baseball life. The following season he fell off badly, and an average steady going fellow, Isbell, supplanted him. "Jiggs" was given a tryout this spring by the Sox and was recently released.

Take the steady fellows, who can generally be relied on in pinches. There are scores of them, and their careers always are long and honorable in the majors. Stovall of Cleveland, Crawford of the Tigers, Dougherty of the Sox, Schulte of the Cubs, Stahl of the Red Sox and Wallace of the Browns are examples. They have seen many stars come and go, but are clinging to their positions and will keep them for years to come in all probability.

Sometimes men of this type are compelled to sit on the bench for awhile, while one of the "comets" takes his place. But you find them back again at the old stand before they have been missed long. They fall right back, and things go along smoother, although not perhaps as sensationally.

Change of environment works wonders with pitchers as a rule. There is such a thing as being too long with one team. It is also true that some twirlers can work better with one team than with another. This was especially true with Overall. He was a wonderful pitcher when with Cincinnati, but didn't like his surroundings. Right when he joined the Cubs he fell into his stride, and he was responsible for a number of victories for them.

Cliff Curtis of the Boston Nationals is another example. Cliff pitched for Milwaukee for a long time. He was regarded as a fair man, but the Brewer fans didn't care much for him. The reason was he couldn't play his game in Milwaukee. To make a long story short, the Doves got hold of him last year, and the transformation was wonderful. He copped one game in Chicago in a manner that left no doubt of his ability to befuddle champions. He looked about as good as any twirler on Boston's staff.

Pitchers are not the only players who profit by changes. There is Delehanty, who now is with Detroit. He plays with much more ambition and life than when he was with Washington. Bresnahan has done yeoman service since leaving the New York Giants and joining the St. Louis Cardinals.

southpaw, who put one over on La Grande last week will pitch for Baker Saturday and Stone Sunday. A large number of Baker fans will go down for the game Sunday.

There will be no ball game Sunday in Baker. The Elks of La Grande have notified the Baker Elks that they cannot be there. The game had been tentatively set for next Sunday.

"Dan" Mathews, the big pitcher and first baseman who drifted here from Baker, has been slipped the blue envelope.

BASE THEFT A SPORT PROGRAM IS FIXED

MOST CALCULATED PLAY IN ALL BASEBALL.

Delayed Steal Invented by Harry Stovey Well Timed.

"Base stealing, the gentle art of sprinting and 'hitting the dirt,' is the finest drawn and most closely calculated play in baseball and the one that, above all others, reveals the mathematical exactitude of the national game," says Hugh S. Fullerton in the American Magazine. "A player who can run eighty-five feet in three and one-third seconds from a flat footed start ought to reach second base actively tied with the ball, nine times out of ten starts, if the play is perfectly made by the runner, pitcher, catcher and baseman. The slightest inaccuracy or hesitation decides the play."

"It seems a simple matter to run ninety feet while a ball is being thrown sixty-eight feet and caught and thrown back approximately 132 feet, caught again and held in position to touch the runner. Yet there are art and science in the feat."

"There were great base runners in the old days. This was chiefly because in the early days stealing second base was the chief aim of the game. Mike Kelly, Billy Hamilton, who in two successive seasons stole over 100 bases, and 'Big Bill' Lange, who stole 100 times in one season, were all great runners who would be great under present conditions. I recall vividly Lange's one hundredth stolen base, which established his record. He was on second base with no one out, and Chicago needed one run to win the game. Anson was at the bat, and after his stolid, businesslike style, he poked down a perfect sacrifice bunt and went lumbering toward first base. Lange started for third base, stopped and trotted back to second. Halfway to the bench Anson discovered where Lange was and came near having a stroke of apoplexy. Lange had deliberately permitted his captain to sacrifice without advancing. Then by a wonderful dashing start Lange stole third base, scored on a fly, and the game was won. Because he won the game Anson forgave him, but the modern player who attempted such a thing would be suspended and fined."

"The most effective steal ever devised is the 'delayed' steal, which, although used during the early development of the game, was neglected for many years until revived by Manager Chance of the Chicago Cubs. It was used with great effect by Bill Lange and appears to have been invented by Harry Stovey, a wonderful base runner of the early days. The theory of the steal is to catch the catcher and the infielder unprepared and out of position, and its success lies entirely in its unexpectedness."

"Lange, the leading exponent of the delayed steal, made it after this fashion. As the ball would be pitched he would leave first base at top speed and sprint as hard as he could perhaps twenty-eight to thirty feet, then stop short, hesitate and act as if he had blundered and intended to try to regain first base. If he succeeded in drawing the throw to first base he proceeded to second at top speed. But in the great majority of cases the catcher would not attempt to throw to either base, but would keep motioning as if threatening to throw, and all the time Lange would be edging back, inch by inch, toward first, jockeying with the catcher. The catcher, satisfied that danger was past and that it was useless to throw to first, would relax from throwing position, ease down his arm and get ready to toss the ball back to the pitcher. The moment Lange saw the arm drop and the catcher change the position of his feet he would dash at top speed for second base. The catcher would leap back into throwing position, raise his arm again and throw, provided the shortstop and second baseman had not deserted the base and walked back toward their regular positions. If they lost a fraction of a second in recovering the base Lange would beat the ball. The fatal hesitancy of the catcher and baseman gave him his opportunity."

"Stealing third base from second is much easier in reality than stealing second from first, although it is attempted much less frequently. The runner 'moving up with his arm' can take more than twice the lead from second base than from first, and, besides that, it is much easier to gain a flying start. It has, however, been declared bad judgment to steal third except in close games with one out and the opposing pitcher going well and preventing hitting. In such cases, where one run will win or tie, stealing third is advised by many. It is more difficult to see the pitcher's movements from behind him than from one side. Still, the runner need not start as

DAY WELL TAKEN UP WITH ATHLETIC EVENTS.

Main Events Arranged for Fourth of July Celebration.

- ◆ Sporting Program July 4th. ◆
- ◆ 9:30 A. M.—Speed races for ◆
- ◆ fire departments and athletic ◆
- ◆ clubs of Eastern Oregon. ◆
- ◆ 10 o'clock (sharp)—Ball game ◆
- ◆ between Elgin and La Grande. ◆
- ◆ Noon—Carnival of sports for ◆
- ◆ boys under 12 and 16 years of ◆
- ◆ age. ◆
- ◆ 2:30 P. M. (sharp)—Ball game ◆
- ◆ Union vs La Grande. ◆
- ◆ 4:30—Carnival of Allinson ◆
- ◆ isms, corner Jefferson and North ◆
- ◆ Fir. ◆
- ◆ 5:00—Wet tests, open to fire ◆
- ◆ companies and athletic clubs of ◆
- ◆ Eastern Oregon. ◆
- ◆ 5:30—Dog race. ◆
- ◆ 6:00—Greased pole manuev- ◆
- ◆ ers, corner Jefferson and North ◆
- ◆ Fir. ◆

Considerable of the details attendant on the Fourth of July celebration from an athletic standpoint have been definitely arranged though the time of day in which each event is to take place is somewhat uncertain. The main points enumerated above are finally set and especially in the evening will the sporting program be supplemented with additional features.

A two wheel-one wheel apparatus guaranteed to give plenty of amusement, grabbing the suspended goose, the greased pole and several other features are to be added to the sporting program above.

MITCHELL COACHING ELGIN.

Elgin Aggregation to Come With Big Excursion Train Tomorrow.

For the benefit of Elgin fans and those living in Grande Ronde valley the management of the Elgin ball team will run an excursion to La Grande next Sunday, and there is promise of a record breaking attendance. The trip to La Grande will be made on the regular afternoon train and the fans will return on a special in the evening.

There is every indication that the game at La Grande next Sunday will be one of the best played and most exciting contests of the season, and the attendance will exceed that of any previous game.

Elgin will go to La Grande with a greatly strengthened team. "Mysterious Mitchell" is taking the locals through a course of coaching this week that will improve the team's playing one half. "Mitchell" coached the O. A. C. team this spring and made a perfect baseball machine of his men. Every man on the Elgin team has been on the field every evening and the manner in which the coach is handling the men is interesting and great improvement is being made. Local players and fans are confident of taking La Grande down the line Sunday and a trainload of people will be there to cheer them on tomorrow.—Elgin Recorder.

quickly, but can start at top speed when he sees the pitcher swinging his arm, advance a third of the way to third base and then retreat in safety because the catcher's throw is much longer. Also he is in much better position to take advantage of any slight slip in the work of the battery."

Thousands in this state have never seen an aviation meet, and if Ely comes to La Grande there will be some "rubbering." By the way, Ely is one of the leading birdmen of today.

Those who saw the Cove dogs race at Union claim the event to be worth all the trouble it will be to get through the crowds on July Fourth, here, to see it.

Chrystal Cafe Sold.

The Chrystal cafe was sold yesterday by H. L. Clark to O. L. Weant and Henry D. Daan. The deal was closed through the office of Black & Pratt, real estate men.

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