

TRACK TEAM'S SEASON STARTS

BIG SQUAD OUT, SHOWING NEW MATERIAL.

Old Timers Will Become Nucleus of the Team for this Season.

Spring training has commenced in high school track and field circles—the trunk suits are out of moth balls and the spiked footwear has been polished up. From 10 to 25 candidates have reported out this week and Captain Conkey and Coach Olson will have no difficulty in keeping interest keen in the classic sports. While there are many new men who have yet to earn their spurs and to yet make good with the competition, it is generally believed that there will be surprises galore from the ranks of new men. Among the old material, and around which the team will no doubt be built are Conkey, Hunter and Carpy in the sprints; Winters, Leffel and Carroll in the half and full distances; Baston and Winters and Morris in the weights. To keep these men working for their places will be a host of younger men all of whom are giving good indications.

CLERKS PLAN LEAGUE.

Twilight to Connect With Branchline Towns now Scheme.

A proposition to give La Grande continuous Sunday baseball is now on foot. Elgin, Wallowa, North Powder, and copious other smaller towns in this section are anxious to get into La Grande when the Spuds are out and the clerks are dickering with points along the line on putting in a team representing La Grande. The plan is to make the team entirely self sustaining, a fact which would make it purely amateur and give the other towns equal chance though smaller in numbers. Such a plan has been proposed to La Grande and the clerks are now taking the matter up. They figure that McInnis and Slate would make a battery plenty sufficient and the clerks and other amateurs about town would complete the team. Such an aggregation would be no fool's team either, as any contesting squad will determine.

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KING DECIDES TO PLACE YOUNG WALTERS AT FIRST, HE TO CATCH

PRACTICE GAME SUNDAY.

Weather permitting, the Spud squad will be divided into sections and go through a five-inning exhibition game tomorrow afternoon. Cold disagreeable weather of course will prevent such action; anything like "decent" weather will find the squad—Yannigans and regulars—out in force and a crowd of critical fans too. It will be the first opportunity for the rank and file to see what the outfit really looks like.

To add balance, poise and strength. Playing Manager Carl King has let go of the initial sack and will work with "Gunner" Peterson, the Tillamook star, behind the bat, sending Carl Walters to first base. In accordance with this arrangement Gleason, utility catcher, has been released and has left town. "I believe the club will be strengthened by me going in on the catching job to relieve "Gunner" said King this morning, "and in keeping Walters on first." During the spring, Walters has been working with the Spokane Indians and the tutoring has done him no harm. King's switching from first, is based on faith in the young first baseman's ability to make good with the stick, and of course on the bag too.

Among the pitchers, the power and strength of which the fans, at least, think hold the cue to success for the "Spuds" this year, there are several who are making splendid headway though training has been worked under hardships and handicaps. With the in and outfield now gathered by the powers that be, it seems that the pennant problem hangs with the pitchers, who to the home guard are

nearly all unknown quantities. Hodson, with Frisco in 1908 and with Springfield, Ill. in 1909 and measuring six feet and two heavenward from the soles of his boots and tips the beam at 190, looks mighty good. He behaves like a ball player. Moeller, a southpaw of whom a great deal is expected, is touted by expert judges to be fully "there" and looks the part too. Pugsley and Mountain, last year's timber, are expected to show considerable improvement and Manning is apparently a surprise. Critical fans didn't doze on him—very strong when he first showed up here but a glimpse at his action on the improvised lot shows he is looking better every day. Goddard, another southpaw, and Bargett a right hander from Tacoma, both have been recommended very highly. It begins to appear that that great unknown pitching staff may have the goods, and if it has, we're off for the races, believe us!

The catching department will consist of Peterson and King under the new arrangement.

The infield is now shaping itself around to read like this: Naughton, Corbin, Nadeau, Vahrenhorst and Walters. All but Corbin, these are familiar to La Grande fandom.

In the outfield La Grande has enough material to make the best garden gleaners in the bunch. Luttrell, Lind, Aiken should have no trouble leading the league. Aiken comes from Beaverton with great boosts from his friends. He is big, young and stings the ball with regularity. Lind is all that has been expected of him it appears from early training developments and hits nicely either right or left and is a blue streak in covering the outfield. Everyone knows Luttrell's hitting propensities.

BASEBALL GOSSIP

Another pitcher was signed by Terry McKune this week. McGarrigle, who has been with Bob Brown's squad, affixed his signature to a Pendleton contract, having been released by Brown. Another outfielder has also been secured in Doherty, who has been training with Nick Williams in California.

Fritz Lundstrum, whom the late Hugh Killackey found in the U. of O. last year and who reported to the Irrigators when they were first in La Grande in 1912, will play ball this

but though he is under contract it is not certain yet that he will report. If he does not come Gimlin will use Lundstrum.

Baker fans will have a chance to see all of Harlow's high steppers in action tomorrow, either with the regulars or a pickup team. There will be no admission charge for this game and a good crowd should be present and boost for both teams.

Pendleton will see its first baseball of the season Sunday afternoon when the Buckaroos, or such of them as are at hand, will play the Echo team of the Irrigation league.

Manager Terry McKune expects to have a full lineup of his own men for the game. Rader, who has been holding out for a higher salary, has accepted terms and transportation has been sent him at Eugene. He will probably be here by Sunday as will Jones, who is now coming up from Los Angeles by boat. With Augustus is Cowan, an outfielder who has been signed. Lodell, the first base, will arrive in a day or two and it is probable that other players will arrive before Sunday also.

"Look who's here!" exclaims the Boise Statesman.

"Paul Bridger blew in last night and is now an Irrigator. He will be out with Gimlin's squad today, and from now on can be counted on as a member of Dad's pitching staff."

"Last season Bridger was far and away the best southpaw in the Western Tri-State league. With Walla Walla he took part in and won more games than all of the crooked arms put together."

"This season he belonged to Cohn, but he was slow to report. When he did get ready to go to work there was a dispute as to where he should go. Cohn said he belonged to Boise. Bridger thought he belonged to Walla Walla. So did Walla Walla, and Bridger reported there."

"Cohn ordered him to come to Boise. Walla Walla finally learned that he belonged here and here he is. He has been digging around in the snow and swimming around in the water up at Beartown enough so that he is in pretty good shape, and he expects to have a good season."

"With Bridger and Pitman the Boise club now has two pitchers who can be depended upon to deliver the goods, and with the youngsters showing as well as they are Dad is not worrying any about the firing squad."

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REFERENDUM MOVE OPPOSED

COMMERCIAL CLUB HERE OPPOSED BROWNSVILLE MEN.

Opposition to Present Game Code is Objectionable.

La Grande's two gun club organizations and the commercial club are not going to sit idly by and see what gossip says is disgruntled Brownsville sportsmen, or unsportsmen, bring the referendum on the present game code. President August J. Stange, writing for the Commercial club here, has sent a letter to the commercial club at Brownsville, protesting against the announced intentions of citizens there bringing the referendum to bear on the code. The law on the whole suits the sportsmen of Eastern Oregon and should satisfy the entire state as, on the whole, it protects game to the best advantage. There are flaws in it, and few game codes are perfect. It is believed that a solid vote against the referendum will be registered in Eastern Oregon should the men at Brownsville succeed in bringing the referendum to bear.

Percy Knight, one of Portland's best blue rock shooters drifted into town Thursday and went out to the gun club range with a few local adepts. Beaten in one string, Percy bet the treats for the bunch he could hang one on Rayburn and they went at it—Rayburn killed 25 birds in a row and Percy got 22. Portland money was later spent up town.

La Grande shoots against Baker tomorrow at the range. While this is the third match the local cracks have yet to be defeated. The tie shoot of last Sunday will be shot off at some future day.

Baker shotgun sharks, against whom La Grande will shoot Sunday have not been contesting and are therefore two behind. They are going to get out tomorrow, however, for their first match. One run of 47 out of 50 was registered by a Baker shooter in practice this week.

Wallowa registered 113 last Sunday against Bend. Brady broke 49 out of 50 during the practice and official shoot.

Secretary Bean's action in not sending the standings of the clubs to the various teams this week has kept the shooters in the dark. They don't know who is who.

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