

WALLOWA IS NEXT ENEMY

LOCAL SHOTS MUST COMBAT A STRONG TEAM.

Crack Shots of Wallowa Must Be Beaten Tomorrow or Never.

Tomorrow will be the day of all days in the state telegraphic shoot for the mighty Wallowa team will meet the home guards. All the shots that can or think they can, manipulate a shotgun are urged to be at the targets at 9:30 for there will probably be some ties to shoot off with Bend. Wallowa hasn't been beaten, and the way she is shooting means that there will have to be a great slaughter of pigeons if she is beaten tomorrow, for if La Grande doesn't do it, who will? The winner of the league schedule will be decided tomorrow, many argue, and for that reason great interest attaches itself to the shoot.

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WHY CLOSE? ANSWER IS!

"ONLY DEAD TOWNS DON'T" SAYS CRITIC.

Opening Day in La Grande May See Plenty of Frills and Crowds.

Apropos to the question of closing up La Grande as tight as a drum May 13, appears an article in the North Yakima Herald that came out the day after the big celebration there when the Spud- and the Braves met for the first game. That La Grande is going to close up its business now seems a certainty but in addition some little celebration is being staged, the details of which are yet to come to the front. The article in question very pertinently says:

"This is a punk town," said a commercial traveler in a local hotel yesterday, "and any place is a punk town in which business ceases because a ball game is in progress. One would think this is a village of 200 people and that the circus procession were passing."

"Forget it," said another traveler. "you're a grouch. In the first place, the size of a town has nothing to do with it as far as celebrating baseball is concerned. A bigger town would have more dead ones and dollar chasers than this and some towns have enough to keep the stores wide open at all times. But here in Yakima this is an event. The town is entering organized baseball circles. It has become a really, truly American city. It is merely celebrating its independence."

"Bah," said the first speaker. "All that sort of talk is rot. Here I am compelled to remain over a day longer in a one-horse town because I couldn't find anyone to do business with, and had to loaf about the hotel all afternoon."

"Take the next train out," said No. 2, "for you won't do business any longer, you can't. I went out and whooped it up with the boys, and tomorrow I will whoop it up with the bosses. I learned something about these Yakima people today, and you didn't. This is a great town. Any agricultural town that can in the spring of the year forget seeds and trees and business and have fun for a day has either got money or knows how to make it, and has no worries. Monday I was in doubt about Yakima. Today I know about it. You think you do, but you're wrong."

"Bah," said No. 1.

Baker Fans Loyal.
Baker, April 26.—(Special).—"Keep on trying," you're improving," was the message of encouragement sent to the "Gold Diggers" at Boise yesterday by the Booster club, at their meeting. The sale of Booster tickets is progressing in great shape and prospects for a banner opening day look mighty good.

The parade and demonstration for the first game, were talked of and a message from Carl D. Silven at Sumpter was received saying that the Gretman band of that city would be present.

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HOW WILL CUBS FARE THIS YEAR?

Once Great Baseball Machine Has Many New Cogs.

JOHNNY EVERS' HANDS FULL

Chance's Successor Is Not Finding Managerial Berth One of Rosing Men Hard to Handle—Club Has Only One High Class Pitcher.

By TOMMY CLARK.

The famous pennant winning Cub team of a few years ago, which made Charley Murphy a rich man, has been scattered and disintegrated. Catcher Kling has retired from baseball, and Pitting Reubach is the only one of the old pitchers now left with the team. Chance and Tinker are handling other ball clubs, and Steinfeldt has retired, leaving Johnny Evers the sole remnant of the great infield, which was considered by many critics the finest machine ever got together in the history of scientific baseball.

Frank Schulte hangs on in the outfield, and Jimmy Sheckard is now a member of the St. Louis Nationals. Artie Hofman, greatest of utility men and all round player in his time, is no longer with the team.

President Murphy says he has sacrificed reputations for the sake of get-



Photos by American Press Association.

ting ball players. By this he means that he let Chance, Tinker, Brown and others go because, in his judgment, though players of national reputation, they had outlived their usefulness as big league performers. He claims that he has filled the places of these waning stars with players of greater speed and more ability.

This means that he believes that Victor Saier will more than replace Frank Chance at first base, while either Bridwell or Corriden will acceptably fill the shoes of Joe Tinker at short. Some of the young pitchers will be as much of a help to the club as Mordecai Brown. But even if all these things turn out to be true, which is the height of impossibility, the loss of Frank Chance's managerial ability is bound to be keenly felt by the Cubs.

Already reports coming from the inside convey the information that Manager Evers has severely criticized several of the players on his team; that he had a run in with Roger Bresnahan, who refused to put on a uniform the following day, and that Saier, a quiet and modest fellow and a good ball player when properly handled, has been sent high into the air by the verbal attacks of Evers and Zimmerman. Manager Evers has been twice caught napping off second base in recent games, an instance of being rattled, which indicates all too clearly how things are going in the Cub camp. The team has only one high class pitcher, Larry Cheney. A little later in the season it will be possible to

BRANCH LINE SEASON IS ON

MOOSE TO INVADE ELGIN FOR OPENING GAME

Enterprise and Wallowa to Meet at Former's Camp on Sunday

La Grande Moose ball players under the guidance of Captain McInnis and Manager Morelock leave tomorrow morning for Elgin where the opening game of the Branch Line league will be staged tomorrow. Wallowa plays at Enterprise on the same day. The opening days at both places will be made events of importance and large crowds will gather to see the first game fought out.

Captain McInnis has mustered a good force of players to carry out the La Grande side of the issues. He has announced this lineup for the opening day which ought to make Elgin to travel considerable to even keep up:

Higgen: an Iowa state leaguer, 2; Carter 1b, Pidcock 2b; Frees, 3b; Conley, ss; Murchison lf; Childers cf; Hathaway and Stacy rf; McInnis, pitcher.

Elgin will play the following men: Mason, ss; Patten, 1b; Smith, p, and 2b; Oswald, p, and 2b; De Boie, cf; Jones, lf; Brown, rf; Shelton, 3b; Landrum, c; Brock, sub; Blumenstein, sub.

SPORT GOSSIP

Less than 200 people attend the games at North Yakima daily, and though of 20,000 population have been showing the poorest gate receipts of the league thus far. With either Pendleton, Baker or La Grande playing good ball, the inland towns will better that figure easily enough.

A player named Gingrass joined the Spuds at Yakima Thursday, playing second for "Van," whose ankle was bad. He handled 4 chances clever.

Well, not so bad, shutting the Braves out yesterday. Two and two now. Here's to the "Spuds."

Pendleton and La Grande fans are still boosting.—Baker Herald.

Notice how Baker is steadily improving. The anvil chorus better get on the fence for it will have to jump soon. Baker is due for some of the pie, remarks a Baker scribe.

Harlow has changed his mind and will not take on Hoag, released by Boise, and the ex-Spokane Indian will go to Chico, California, in the Trolley league.

McKune is a pretty mad Irishman. He considers Thursday's game lost by a raw decision. He tried to express himself by the telephone to Pendleton fans but wires refused to carry more than the general impression that he was sore to his heart.

When a team gets ten hits against its opponents' three and then loses a game, it does look as if something went a little wrong with all due respect to Starkell and his reputation for squareness, soliloquizes a Pendleton East Oregonian writer.

Then Pendleton men are scrappy. They fight for every game, although their kicking came a little too strong yesterday. Manager McKune had a fige spot slashed from his salary and

reflect that winning ball clubs are not manufactured on hot air and the quotation of big figures for salaries and purchased players.

It is a grave question whether the Cubs can possibly finish in the first division this year, and an absolute clinch that they will not run better than fourth, a position which they will be lucky to attain. This is not a knock at the Cub team or anybody connected with it, but simply a prophecy to offset the extravagant claims which emanate from Chicago.

SPUDS SHOW GREAT FORM

WIN YESTERDAY HANDLE WITH JAMISON PITCHING.

Foley Home From Trip North—Changes Made in Lineup.

Standing of the Clubs.

Club	Won	Lost	Pct.
Boise	4	0	1000
Walla Walla	4	0	1000
La Grande	2	2	.500
North Yakima	2	2	.500
North	0	4	.000
Pendleton	0	4	.000

La Grande's complexion is being slightly change at North Yakima according to President P. A. Foley who returned this morning after having seen La Grande go three games and seen Walla Walla and the Bucks fight it out yesterday. Pugsley is gone, Gooch and Browning are gone and Vanrenhorst's are in such a condition that he is either released or will be soon if his arm doesn't improve. When Mr. Foley left the Spuds Van's physical condition was not of the best and it was thought likely that his old arm trouble is going to keep him out. Word from North Yakima yesterday corroborates the report that Van has been forced to retire. A pitcher named Willanons, a Seattle right hander, has been signed up and several others are being looked over with a view of filling up the holes left should Vanrenhorst be unable to get back in the game.

Umpire Meade robbed La Grande of its first defeat and is very unpopular with Manager Engel, too, reports the club president. The umps is in bad in every way at North Yakima.

The game yesterday marked by five errors on North Yakima's part and one by a Grande, Jamison held the Braves to three scattered hits, and the entire team had its gilt edge ball to the front. Today and tomorrow decides the series and that La Grande will break even is very probable—if she does she has done her first week's work nobly.

Commencing Tuesday all details pertaining to the game will be published the day after the game but the mail service is such that it takes two days to get detailed information to La Grande from North Yakima.

Hard luck alone is holding Pendleton out of the winning thinks the returned mogul. The Bucks are playing great ball says Foley.

North Yakima—Score: R. H. E.
La Grande5 4 1
North Yakima0 3 5
Batteries—Jamison and King; Oass, Stolke and Stanley.

Bears Win Again.
Walla Walla—Score: R. H. E.
Walla Walla3 5 4
Pendleton1 6 3
Batteries—Laird and Post; Berger and Bladen.

Boise Wins Good Game.
At Boise—Score: R. H. E.
Boise4 10 2
Baker3 11 3
Batteries—Boise, Finley and Gard; Baker, Jensen and Cress.

Augustus drew a five fine when he persisted in kicking as Starkell was leaving the grounds. A team that won't fight for a game wouldn't be worth going far to see, but it's going a little too strong when the players begin nagging. There was a questionable decision at first in the last of the ninth, when a Bear got life on an error, but those sitting near the bag say that he was safe, Lodell not having his foot on the bag. From the grandstand he looked to be out. But it's the difference of opinion that makes baseball. The coffers of the league were swelled yesterday. It's hard on salaries, but the league needs the money.—Walla Walla Union.

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