

LINE UP IS BEING MADE

Line Up of the Long Prairie Ball Team is Acquiring Some Definiteness. Schedule is Also Being Made.

The event in baseball circles locally is the signing of George "Rat" Johnson to captain and catch for the team this summer. After some negotiations, satisfactory terms were agreed upon and the famous catcher and player will be here to report about June 1.

Johnson caught for the Colored Gophers last year and is recognized as one of the great ball players of the country. If the big leagues did not draw the color line he would be playing with the top notchers. He has been a familiar figure in baseball circles the past few years and is a wonderful player. He captained the Colored Gophers last year and they

were about the fastest team in the state.

Johnson is at present coaching the St. Paul league team. He was signed by Manager Kelley early in the spring and took the St. Paul team to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they worked out and got into shape for the season. Johnson is a great coach and is expected to do wonders with the material Manager Ray Lee will round up for him.

Johnson's greatest success has been along the line of developing young pitchers. As a catcher he is one of the big ones and in this position he had made a specialty of coaching pitchers. Long Prairie has some very promising material in this line in Schomaker, Canfield and Koehler and the training they will secure this summer from Johnson will be worth lots to them as a part of their baseball education. The value of a good coaching catcher to pitchers has been demonstrated many times in the big leagues. Just now the St. Louis Nationals are illustrating this fact. Last winter Roger Bresnahan of the New York Giants was traded to St. Louis. Bresnahan is considered one of the greatest if not the greatest catcher in the National league. St. Louis had a wealth of young pitch-

ing talent but they could not win games. In order to secure Bresnahan's services St. Louis traded the famous "Bugs" Raymond, considered one of the best hurlers in the major league and Pitcher Fromme, a first rater. Since Bresnahan took charge this spring, the St. Louis team has turned out to be the surprise of the league, notwithstanding the fact that she lost two of her best pitchers, and her remaining pitchers are proving to be unusually effective and the Cardinals while not at the top of the column are regarded as one of the most formidable teams of the league. Johnson's services as coach in Long Prairie will be of great service in developing our young pitchers. As coach for the team, too, his services will be invaluable. The management and the fans are much pleased over the fact that he is to wear a Long Prairie uniform this summer.

The pitching department is in some doubt as yet but that will be well cared for before June 1. Schomaker, the most experienced of the local pitchers, may be in Long Prairie this summer and if he is will do a share of the box work and hold down the third bag. He is an old timer on the infield and all the fans have to know is that he is to play at third

to know that that part of the diamond is safe. As a pitcher, he is also a comer and his assistance in the box will be of much help to the team.

Floyd Maynard is slated for his old position at first. Forrest Maynard, one of last year's hard hitters, is slated for the second base position. In the outfield, Sheets, one of last year's veterans will have his old position and the other two places will be filled from among Henry Williams, Ed Bury, Harold Ernst, Leonard Garding, Gordon Cole, Adolph Koehler and others. There is thus plenty of good material. Henry Williams is home for the summer and it is evident from the way he got into the game Sunday with Browerville that he is in good form and is going to do some good stick work this season.

Manager Lee is negotiating with two Indians from the White Earth reservation for use as infielders and outfielders as they are needed. The records of men the under consideration have been carefully looked up and the management thinks they are good men. Both have played in the Northern league and have excellent reputations throughout the north part of the state wherever

they have played the past four or five years. The two men have not been signed as yet, but after some

preliminaries are settled, there is little doubt but that they will be the men selected by the management for the places.

The Long Prairie team thus promises at this time to be the best the town has ever had. The playing season will without doubt be the most interesting. There are to be more good teams in the central part of the state than ever before and the presence of the Sunday train on the branch this summer is going to permit of the Long Prairie games being played with less expense to the management and with better chances of getting crowds than ever before.

There is thus much in the situation to delight the heart of the fan.

Throughout the season a small admittance fee will be charged to the games as has been usual. The price will be 25 cents for general admission with a smaller charge, possibly, for the less important games. The management has no desire at all to make money, the purpose of those backing the team is simply to provide the people of the village and the neighboring country with some good, clean amusement this summer. Just as many games as possible will be played on the home grounds. The

chief expense of maintaining the team will be borne by private subscription. The games will for the most part be scheduled for Saturday and Sunday so that farmers and others from the country who want to enjoy a game of ball will have the privilege.

The games scheduled to date are:

Browerville on May 30 at Browerville.

Browerville on May 31 at Long Prairie.

Little Falls, June 5 and 6 at Long Prairie.

Hibbing, June 10 at Long Prairie.

Colored Gophers, June 25.

The season for the regular team will open on the last Sunday in May. Browerville will also have its new players by that time, so that the games can be looked forward to as good ones. Little Falls which comes here the next Saturday and Sunday also has a crack team this season. Their season has already opened and they have been playing games the past few days. Hibbing has the crack team of the Iron Range country and last year disputed with the Colored Gophers for state championship honors. They are a very fast team and pretty speedy to take on so early in the season but the schedule worked

out that way and they had to be taken on then or else not at all. The Colored Gophers minus their former captain will be taken on the latter part of June for one game. It ought to be a hot one as the Gopher management is not at all pleased over losing Johnson and the colored wonders will doubtless make an extra effort to put the Long Prairie captain and his proteges out of the running. Other games are now being arranged for and it is planned to have at least three games a week all through the season. Some St. Paul and Minneapolis teams are anxious to come here and then there will be the games with Sauk Centre, Melrose, Alexandria, St. Cloud and Akeley to be taken care of.

There is going to be things doing locally in the baseball world this summer and no mistake.

Long Prairie Leader, Long Prairie, MN

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