

BIG TENNIS BOOM

Great Increase in Number of Meets This Year.

ENGLISH PLAYERS COMING

Judging From Plans, the Britishers Are Preparing For Revenge Because of the Americans' Refusal to Compete in Olympics—Important Dates.

Optimism of the sort which will overcome mountains of obstacles is the predominating virtue among the lawn tennis players and enthusiasts as they stand upon the threshold of the twenty-eighth season of the sport in this country. There are so many reasons for its being viewed through rose colored glasses even by the dimmutive few who are disposed to take an oblique glance at the arrangement of things.

Of the manifold reasons for exuberance manifested the prospect of international matches with an English leading team in this country looms large and interesting. Then from the colleges and universities the word has been passed which is to be a potent factor in the upbuilding of the American game.

The schedule of the United States National Lawn Tennis association lengthened materially when it was issued some time ago. That in itself was an indication of the steady and healthy growth of the sport.

In the east the dreary gap that formerly began early in July and continued until the beginning of September has been completely filled with tournaments that will surely prove of absorbing interest. In this respect the newer organizations have found their place and are vying with the country clubs. That the larger and more important organizations are to hold tournaments during the coming season where such have never been held before is a fair indication that there is either a general turning to the courts by those who have only played occasionally or that a vast number of younger players have reached that stage where they have made insistent demands to which the clubs are giving attention. The list of new tournaments has furnished us many surprises in the way of opening the most unexpected places for the following.

The affairs connected with the international challenge matches for the Dwight F. Davis cup have taken some form after a most vexatious delay, during which there was a critical period when it looked as if the English would go to Australia and leave the Americans to journey there also or default. But that was not at all the program that the officials of this country had planned. They had to make it very plain that this country would not send any official entries for the Olympic games championships. It was final.

Now the English have consented to visit this country, and from their plan they may be preparing to take some thing akin to revenge because of the Americans' refusal for the Olympics. As it stands, the English players are to arrive in this country the latter part of July or the 1st of August. Their appearances at the all comers' national championship at Newport is certain and there is a feeling that they may repeat the wresting of the laurels as did H. L. Doherty five years ago.

Naturally the international ties for the privilege to challenge Australia will be decided about the same time, and the Englishmen will either continue on to the Pacific coast, playing in tournaments, or they will return home. In any event, the challengers of the Australians will be called upon to play the cup matches the 1st of November.

All in all, the same and steady growth of the game is afforded on every side. Better conditions are to prevail, and with them will follow better play.

Some of the important matches to be decided this coming season are as follows:

- May 20—Kings County Lawn Tennis club, Brooklyn; Long Island championship open.
- May 24—Bachelors' Lawn Tennis club Washington; middle Atlantic states championship.
- May 25—Longwood Cricket club, Boston; New England intercollegiate championship.
- May 30—Brae Burn Country club, West Newton, Mass.; Massachusetts state championship doubles.
- June 1—Merion Cricket club, Philadelphia; women's championship of Pennsylvania and eastern states.
- June 2—Longwood Cricket club, Philadelphia; Pennsylvania state championship for men.
- June 8—West Side Tennis club, New York city; metropolitan championship.
- June 9—Hartford Golf club, Hartford Conn.; championship of New England.
- June 12—Longwood Cricket club, Boston; Massachusetts state championship.
- June 15—Philadelphia Cricket club, Wissahickon heights, Philadelphia; national championships for women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles.
- June 23—Orange Lawn Tennis club, Orange, N. J.; middle states championship.
- July 1—Atlanta Athletic club, Atlanta, southern championship.
- July 20—New York Athletic club, Travers Island; New York state championship.
- July 25—Chicago; western championship doubles, western singles for men and women.
- July 27—Longwood Cricket club, Boston; eastern doubles championship and seventh annual Longwood singles.
- AUG. 12, 14 and 15—Crescent Athletic club; east, west and south doubles championship.
- AUG. 15—Newport, R. I.; national championship in strategy, championship doubles and intercollegiate singles championship.
- AUG. 25—Niagara Lawn Tennis club; international and Canadian championship held at the same time, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.
- AUG. 29—Cincinnati; tri-state championship (Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky).
- Sept. 16—Moosehead Field club; New Jersey state championship.
- Oct. 1—Longwood Cricket club, Boston; women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles.
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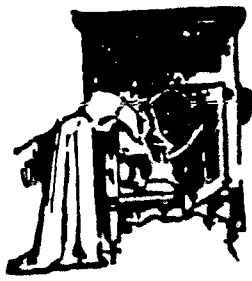
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