

degree, and Jones having exceeded the maximum in any case. Winston has graduated, and as Adkinson has announced that he will not play this spring, Stagg has the problem of finding a catcher, a second baseman, short stop, third baseman, and a couple of good, hard-hitting outfielders. The only old men now available are Captain Henry Clarke, pitcher; Brown, pitcher; Abells, first base, and Hirshberger, center field. These men make an excellent nucleus about which to form a team, and with Stagg's ability for developing baseball material, Chicago stands a good chance, though by no means a certainty of landing in the coveted first prize again. Already, in their first game, Chicago beat the Edgars, one of the best of the Chicago semi-professional teams, 4 to 1, in a good game, Captain Clarke holding his opponents down to three hits, striking out ten men and making three of his own team's eight safe hits, two of them being two-baggers. The make-up of the Chicago team was: Gardner, 3b.; Clarke, p.; Abells, 1b.; Sawyer, r. f.; Hirshberger, c. f.; Brown, l. f.; Merofield, s. s.; Leighton, c., and Vernon, 2b.

At Michigan, all of the old men who played so many seasons on the U. of M.'s teams are gone or ineligible, and of the '96 nine, only Miller, the change pitcher, is now in college and qualified to play. But the new policy of clean amateur teams, which has been instituted at Michigan, will very soon result in bringing out good men and will surely show good results. One of the parts of the plan is graduate coaches, and Watkins, the left-hand pitcher of the '95 and '96 teams, has been selected to handle the baseball candidates. He will have the assistance of a number of old men still in the university, but disqualified by having played professionally—notably, "Eddie" Shields, Kinmons, and Ward, of Pribceton. The men are all new, and little can be said of them until some games have been played. The best of them are Miller, Scott, Sheehan, and Keith for the box; Wehrle, Wheeler, and Drumheller, catch; Condon, first; Cooley and Butler, second; Wolfe and Bannon, short; and Sullivan and Bishop, third. There are a large number of candidates for the outfield—Hannan, Jones, Dean, and Russell probably being the best just now; though, later, batting will be the chief factor in determining the make-up of the outfield. With the unusual interest which Michigan always takes in baseball, and the way in which the new men are being handled, there is reason to believe that the team will be a strong one, notwithstanding the

fact that only one man has played on a U. of M. team before.

Wisconsin starts out with but two men who played regularly on the '96 team, which was the poorest team she had been represented by in several years. These men, Hayden, captain and pitcher, and Grigg, short-stop, now playing second, were among the best on the team, and with them and Perkins, Libbey and Dorschel, each of whom played in several games, in the outfield and on third, Phil King will endeavor to turn out a winning team. That he will succeed as well as he did with the Wisconsin eleven last fall is not at all probable, but he will make the most of the material at hand, and should bring the Wisconsin nine up to a plane somewhere near that of her other athletics. Besides Hayden for the box, Bandeline, a left-hander, is about the best of the new men, and the best candidates for the other places are Siefert, Johnson and Libbey, first; Clark, Gernon and Mills, short; Brewer and Collip, third; Manson, outfield; and Perry, catch. These men will probably be shifted around somewhat, and may not all figure on the team later, but in any case, despite the very ordinary character of the material, Wisconsin with good coaching and steady training should be much better than last year.

Northwestern will also be better than last year, for similar reasons, and with the aid of two such pitchers as Sickles and Murphy, should be dangerous rivals for any of the Western colleges. The protests against playing these two men will be long and loud, however.

The situation in Western college baseball is one that is still far from being all that is desirable, because nearly all of the colleges have men on their teams who play on nines of doubtful status in the summer.

Of the other teams, Illinois opens the season with quite a number of the old men back, and, with Huff to coach them again, they promise to put up a game right up to the leaders. Already they have played several games, and though not yet victorious in any of them, they have shown good hitting qualities, and the promise of a fast fielding team.

Oberlin, Indiana, University, Lake Forest, De Pauw, and some more of the minor colleges will be heard from through the season in many good games, but their general average does not, as a rule, warrant any of them in claiming precedence over any of the above-mentioned teams.

GEO. F. DOWNER.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Athlete.—No athletic experts keep track of any such subdivision of records. In this case distinctions would be peculiarly worthless because there is no difference in speed and ease between cinder paths and clay paths, and some of our most frequently used paths have been, at different times, surfaced with brickdust, cinders, clay, and all sorts of combinations of these three materials.

Nemo, Lancaster, N. Y.—Competing in unsanctioned games does not make a man a professional, but merely suspends him from

competing in games given under the rules of the organization whose sanctioning laws he has violated. Competing against a professional, no matter what the nature of the prize, makes the offender a professional.

C. R., Kansas City.—In February and March, 1895, and the same months in 1896 we published description and diagram for building model yachts. Mr. George F. Poggote is secretary of the American Model Yacht Club, 20 Thomas street, New York city. Write to him for entry forms.