

Des Moines to Start Night Games May 6

Des Moines, Ia., April 8.—[Special.]
—League baseball at night will be introduced here by the Des Moines team of the Western league Tuesday evening, May 6. The local club expects to play all its 1930 home games, with the exception of Sunday contests, under artificial light. Kenesaw M. Landis, commissioner of baseball, and officials of many of the major teams will be guests of the Des Moines club at the opener.

The floodlighting of the Des Moines league diamond has been brought about by Lee Keyser, president of the club, who last fall witnessed several night games of college and high school football. The lighting will comprise 146 floodlights mounted in batteries atop six 90 foot steel towers. Each projector has a 1,000 watt incandescent lamp.

Two of home plate and behind the grand stand will be two of the towers, one on each side of the plate. Each has a battery of thirteen projectors, one of which will be directed upon the plate, while the other twelve will illuminate the diamond and the catcher's area. Down the base lines and behind the bleachers will be located two more towers, one on each side of the field, each having 36 projectors, and these will illuminate the area from the outfield to just short of the home plate.

The last two towers, with 24 projec-

tors apiece, will be placed beyond right and left field, respectively, and will cover the entire outer playing area. The altitude of the projectors will eliminate glare and the criss-crossing of the beams will overcome shadows. The highest fly balls and the longest home runs will be clearly illuminated for both players and spectators, engineers declare.

Night baseball was first played in an exhibition game between league teams in June, 1927, when two clubs of the New England league staged a 7 inning contest at Lynn, Mass. Eight thousand fans were present and were surprised at the ease with which they could follow the plays. Only two errors were made and those who witnessed the game declared these could not be charged to any lack of light.

Electrically illuminated night sport events now include football, soccer, trap shooting, tennis, golf, swimming, track meets, hockey, and skating, as well as baseball.