

BIG PRIZES FOR BILLIARDS.

EXPERT PLAYERS INVITED TO PLAY IN NEW-YORK AND CHICAGO.

The offer of \$5,000 by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company for two billiard tournaments—one in New-York in January and one in Chicago after the New-York tourney is decided—makes it quite certain, in the minds of the billiard experts, that the leading players of the country will be brought together in contests with the cue. The stumbling block in the way of a tournament has been Jacob Schaefer of Chicago, and it is doubtful whether Schaefer can be induced to play, on account of reasons known only to himself, but it is asserted that his not playing will not interfere with the proposed tournaments.

The company offering the money for prizes demands an entrance fee of \$500 from each player, which will, with the net receipts, be added to the amount distributed among the four best men in proportions of 40, 30, 20, and 10 per cent. The players will be required to sign an agreement to play in both tournaments, and will be handicapped for both contests before the first match is played. It is proposed to play the balk-line game in both cities, and in the games here Messrs. Schaefer, Slosson, and Vignaux will, if they compete, play over fourteen-inch lines, while the others entered will only have their lines drawn eight inches from the cushions. This is to insure rapid games. In Chicago the handicaps will be in points.

George Slosson said last evening that he intended to send in his entry to-day, and says all of the Eastern players expect to enter. Everybody interested in the tournaments is trying to force "Wizard" Schaefer into a contest, but he objects to playing where handicaps are in lines.

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