

Demand for Umpires of Color Is Growing Among the Fans

With the world aghast at the baseball scandal regarding the 1919 world's series and the gambler's hold on players to such a vast extent, we might call the public attention, particularly those of the Race, that our own game needs a little cleaning up as well as some radical changes. First the majority of those who attend the games in various cities to the extent of thousands each Saturday paying prices that used to be charged in the big leagues, have from time to time asked the worn out question: "Why do eighteen men playing the game of baseball have to have one or two white men to umpire?"

The answer is that the managers of these ball teams have failed to heed the wishes of the public that supports them and their team—in other words that put bread and butter in their mouths. In their greed and lust for the coin they have overlooked the fact that if the crowd diminishes, away goes both team and park, because no

one can run a business at a loss and baseball has virtually ceased to be a sport—it is a business and has, at numerous times, been proven as such.

The season of 1920 is closing. There are many things to be done in the winter months. The managers of the clubs belonging to the Negro leagues of the east, west and south will have to come together and elect officers, make a schedule of games, etc. We suggest that the president of each league be some one else than the manager or owner of a team playing in either league. We suggest a series after the league's season has ended between the winning team of each league to find the national champion.

A one-man, czar-like system is not going to succeed. This rule or ruin spirit is not going to meet with the approval of the fans, especially when the facts become known.

We might hint that the national pastime among our Race cannot succeed without the proper support of the public. The public demand for umpires of color will get all the support of this paper.

We know and realize that it would be utterly impossible for one or two gentlemen of color to undertake to go over and umpire the White Sox game, and what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, so we are adding that it is just as impossible for us to sit out at the American Giants park, or any other park where two teams of the Race are playing, and have two white men umpiring our games crammed down our throat. The situation must come to a stop. Any of us who have journeyed to the Thirty-Ninth street grounds have often been disgusted at the work of the two regular white umpires behind the plate. A high school boy could do as good at times and at other times far better. There is no instance in this city of any paper or persons doing more for the game than the Chicago Defender and in seeking to improve it from the standpoint of satisfaction to those that lay down their "long green" we are out solid for Race umpires.

Chicago Defender, Chicago, IL

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