

THE PEKIN CHAMPIONS HEARD FROM.

Will Push For The Champlonship. Of Ohio, Indiana Sprudels?

CINCINNATI, O.—Manager Connelly of the Pekin Champions says he will push West Baden Sprudels for the honor of the three states, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Mr. Connelly deserves much credit in getting together a fast bunch of youngsters, who really play ball. After getting off to bad start this season they came to the front like champions. Manager Connelly is still hoping for the time to come when he will give those A. B. C.'s a lacing. Had the team been in good shape when they met the A. B. C.'s last season it would have been a different story.

SPRUDELS OPEN SEASON.

WEST BADEN, Ind.—The West Baden Sprudels opened their park last Sunday with the College Hill team of Cincinnati to an enormous crowd. Score:

College Hill	--1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—1	7	1
Srudels	---	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	*	—6	5	4

Batteries—Hill and Franks; Williams and O'Neill.

RED UNION GIANTS DEFEAT MEMPHIS EAGLES—A SNAP- PY GAME.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—The Red Union Giants defeated the fast "Memphis Eagles" at Klondyke Park Easter Sunday afternoon, 15 to 1. Although the score don't show it, the game was replete with some flashy and sensational fielding. There were many features including the pitching of Goodman, and catching of Bigby and the fielding and hitting of Clark, Steward, Wil-

liams, Mathews and Young were sensational. White and McKee played their usual game for Giants.

Cobb, formerly with West Baden, caught a nice game for the Eagles. Balls and Skeeter Monk did the fielding and hitting honors. The Giants would like to arrange dates north with Cairo, Louisville, Muncie, Evansville and other cities on their tour.

WM. SCOTT, Manager.

BASEBALL AND THE NEGRO.

Good Players Being Developed—Salary Not in Keeping.

This is my maiden effort at writing for the newspapers, and the only excuse I have to offer for intruding upon the sport writer's lucrative pastime is that it is done at the request of The Freeman. This, at the same time constitutes my apology to them for invading their territory. I have reluctantly consented to contribute this little mite to this number.

In defense of myself it is well to state in the outset that I have directed whatever I might know of baseball to the handling of ball clubs and the training of young players and not to writing articles on the great pastime, preferring to leave that field entirely to the zealous and jealous sport writers on the big colored weeklies. Like the sport writers of the other race, they do not like an invasion of their territory, nor the assumption of any of their prerogatives.

Negroes Handicapped.

The Negroes, as is well known, can not enter the present system of organized baseball. The Indians, Italians, Cubans, Chinese, Japanese and everybody else except the Ethiopians are extended an invitation and a fat salary if they can only make good in organized baseball. There are many men of various nationalities today drawing

salaries larger than that of a United States Senator, playing under the protection of the "National Agreement," though far outclassed by many Ethiopians in every department of the game.

Whatever may be the qualifications of the Negro, or however well known the fact of those qualifications might be, the Negro is out of the present system of organized baseball, and according to the present indications, he is out to stay. Merely proving ability to master the intricate plays of the game does not seem to be a wedge by which the Negro can pry the gate of organized baseball open.

What is the remedy? Answer: A league composed entirely of Negro clubs, manned by Negro managers.

It has been clearly demonstrated to the minds of both the white baseball critics and the general populace of this entire country that the Negro is "there" both as a player and manager. Wherein has he failed? one would ask.

His Failure.

He has failed as an organizer. There is a peculiar prejudice that we have to go against that is no true of any other people. We do not mean to argue that by maintaining an organized league of Negroes, a wedge would be made by which we could enter the ranks of organized baseball. I do believe that by so doing our chances would be better than they are now. It is always the fellow who is doing something, that can get something to do.

Our players are not developed to the highest point for the reason that there are no strings tied to them through



C. I. TAYLOR, MANAGER OF THE A.
B. C. BASEBALL CLUB.

organization, and if a manager pins down on a player in order that he might get out of him the possibilities he thinks he sees, that player is apt to jump to some other club where he thinks it is possible, whether it be true or not, for him to idle around, where there is not so much practice and no such rigid discipline.

The writer has had players in whom he believed he saw great possibilities, and yet these same players, in many instances, have suddenly shown a burning desire to jump to some other team where the manager would allow them all kinds of privileges detrimental to a ball player. His so doing has perhaps robbed the race of many a Ty Cobb or a Mathewson. Organized baseball only can prevent these losses to the great game.

An Advertising Game.

Organized baseball is a great advertising agency for the city so fortunate as to own a franchise. And, too, special pride is created in the fans toward the home club, not known to fans of independent ball. The lover of the game wants to see his home club fighting for a position. He wants to see his club's standing in the percentage columns of the daily papers. He is anxious to follow, through the press dispatches, the doings of his club while on a long road trip. He is just as interested in it when the team is away from home as when it is playing on its own grounds.

And then, he gladly welcomes the team home in a stretch of fifteen or eighteen games, where he is seen each afternoon when the umpire calls, "play ball." This, and nothing else, will bring about the recognition of the Negro ball player, his ability, and an invitation into the ranks of the present system of organized baseball.

The Present System.

Under the system which we are playing at the present, neither the players, managers, nor fans have any protection. Players can and do jump from limb to limb during a single season, until they have worn as many different uniforms as they ought to wear in a lifetime. It is a common occurrence for a manager to take his team to a town for a series of games, and leave the town short of from one to six players, said players either having signed up with the local club or "got stuck on a woman."

Not many seasons ago the writer, while managing a certain team, had on one occasion a very important series of games to play. As is my custom, on the day before the series was to begin, I assembled the club in a meeting and discussed the importance of the series and how necessary it was for us to win it, giving them some points with reference to the strength of the opposition team, and what would be the duty of each member of the team, not only on the ball field, but in caring for his physical being during this special series. I advised that no member

of the team should take any intoxicating drinks, and I further urged them to retire early, not later than 10:30 p. m. What would you suppose happened?

It might be well to state just here, however, that it ought to be the desire of every ball player to give the best service of which he is capable, and especially so on important, special occasions. Rube Waddell was never loved by the fans of Philadelphia after he left Connie Mack without his services, and a worthy antagonist of Mathewson back in the middle of the last decade as before, he let the manager and the fans down in a pinch. Waddell never stopped falling from that date.

Now, back to my story. This is what

happened. The next morning at 5 a. m. I went to the room of each player, so as to be sure of their physical fitness for the opening fray. I found to my surprise and chagrin that three of my best players had spent the night elsewhere than in their rooms. Included among these night marauders was the man I had scheduled to pitch the opening game. Of course, I put out to hunt them up. Two I never saw at all until time to don our uniforms for the great opening game of this important series, but I ran across the pitcher about 7:30 a. m. in a saloon taking a glass of beer. He looked every bit "an all night marauder." His sunken eyes, high cheeks and trembling voice bespoke his utter unfitness for the task I had allotted him for that day.

What did I do? Well, it can be imagined that I was a very much disgusted man and upon reprimanding the player, he quit the team. He was in a better condition than any other pitcher on the team, too, barring that spree.

My sole reason for relating this unpleasant episode is to show that my hands were tied and there was no way for me to mete out the punishment requisite for the offense, which would have been afforded in organized baseball. A league, with rules and regulations that can be enforced, is the only remedy.

Protection to Players.

Players as well as the fans will hail the coming of the League in that they will not only get larger salaries, but they will be in a position to demand their pay by a given law.

Patrons Protected.

Protection, through the organization of a Negro league will come to the thousands of patrons of the present day independent colored teams, in that they will not only see a spectacle, but a contest, when they journey to the park.

C. I. TAYLOR,

Mgr. A. B. C's.

BASE BALL DIRECTORY.

**Managers Can Arrange Games
Through This Medium.**

The Freeman wants the names of managers of all independent teams, white and colored, and will carry same in the above directory for the coming season for \$1.00.

White Sox—H. C. Dickens, Mgr.,
Louisville, Ky.

Red Union Giants, Wm. Scott, Mgr.,
115 S. 4th St., Memphis, Tenn.

Cairo Giants—C. O. Owens, Mng., 404
Commercial Ave., Cairo, Ill.

Whiteley Stone Walls—J. Boyd, Sec-
retary, 715 S. Walnut St., Muncie, Ind.

Indianapolis Freeman, Indianapolis, IN

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