

# ***In the Field of Sport.***

BY HAROLD C. MCGATH.

## AN EPOCH IN BASEBALL.

### The Negro Professionals a Reality.

By special request of Mr. Beauregard F. Moseley, manager of the Chicago Leland Giants, the world's famous Negro baseball team, the following article on the organization of a Negro baseball league is submitted.

The Twentieth century marks the epoch of the Negro in professional baseball.

In organizing a Negro baseball league we have a slight change that is different from the present white leagues. The two major organizations are the American League and National League, while the minor leagues are classified into four divisions.

Since our Negro organization is making its debut in the baseball world, we shall have to class our Negro baseball league in one division. Therefore, in forming a league it is necessary to ascertain the population of the cities intended for the circuit.

It would be necessary to have a salary limit for the players and the teams, and this is based entirely on the population. The rules regarding salary limits should be strictly enforced.

Eight cities are the ideal number for a league circuit; but if our league

covered six good cities, close together, so as to make traveling expenses light, the results would be great. For example, try this schedule: Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis and Kansas City, where the Negro population is largest. Many small leagues have made a success of playing all aSaturday games in the best drawing cities, splitting the receipts for these days evenly.

Our Negro baseball league must have officers at the head who are able to force managers and players to live up to the laws in every particular; in other words, men who consider the interest of the league above all else and who, while holding office, hew to the line.

The most important work on hand when promoting a baseball league is the selection of an executive head, who is well posted on baseball from all angles, politically as well as from the standpoint of the magnates and players. A man who can mix up with the lovers of the sport and still have the adaptability to his executive position and the ability to lead at all times is the man needed. A poor executive can keep his league in hot water all the time, while an official with good judgment and backbone will make the same league bloom like June roses.

If I were to organize a league tomorrow, my first move after selecting

the cities for a six or eight-club circuit, would be the selection of men to manage each club.

These men would be old baseball players with executive ability, and each one would receive at least a one-third interest in the club. This would give each manager confidence; and sooner or later he would have a little of the luck that must come to a successful manager or league.

Too much credit cannot be given to our esteemed friend, Mr. Beaurguard F. Moseley, for the stand he has taken in the Negro baseball world.

My first advice would be to have perfect order on the ball field, insist upon the players wearing clean uniforms, and all be uniformed alike. The teams should cater to the best people in the community, and all questionable language on or off the field would be prohibited. I would even go further and insist that the spectators keep within the bounds in their personal remarks, for no one ever was attracted to the ball grounds by the insane and uncalled for abuse of players by the individual, disgruntled spectator.

Gambling never should be countenanced for a minute in any form, for the past is strewn with baseball wrecks caused by gamblers. The latter will abuse the game at any turn, and should never be allowed to

thrive on a ball diamond.

Previous to this time a Negro ball player never received any encouragement in the least; but I would advise officials, managers and members of my race to use all energy and every effort to encourage him.

The hardest task to the majority of Negro ball players comes after the season has ended. He has not the opportunities before him where he

can sit in some warm office and work or in a business house of his own; but he will have to resort to some outside work during the winter time and expose himself to the chilly winds of the Frigid zone, which results in pneumonia, rheumatism and perhaps never to come back again in baseball.

Again, let the officials and ball players co-operate with each other during the baseball season, and with their salaries establish a business of some kind, buy land, buy homes to prepare themselves for future happiness. I would advise every official of the league to impress the ball players of the respective teams with the good advantage of saving their earnings during their baseball career; and as far as I am concerned, I am heartily in favor of the stand Mr. Beaurguard F. Moseley takes in regard to the advancement of the Negro in professional baseball. I stand ready to give him my undivided support at any time, and he can rest assured that our

club, the St. Louis Giants, is one of  
the factors in this coming league.  
CHARLES A. MILLS,  
Manager St. Louis Giants.

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