

BASEBALL MEN WRITE LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

Western Circuit Organized; to Be- come Effective April 1, 1921

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.—A Western circuit, National Baseball League of the United States, was organized here last week in the rooms of the Community Center. Newspaper men and sport writers became the arbiters for the baseball magnates. It was the first time in the history of a baseball meeting that there was exhibited so much harmony and good spirit. Andrew "Rube" Foster was chosen as the temporary chairman and secretary. He stated the aim and purpose of the gathering and then said he would leave it to the newspaper men at the meeting to decide all questions, select players for the various teams and write the by-laws and constitution for the league. No sooner had he said this than C. I. Taylor of the Indianapolis A. B. C.'s

assented, also "Fenny" Blunt of the Detroit Stars.

The Player Question

The player question was the first to come up for consideration. It is a well-known fact that some of the managers have been dickering with each others players which has caused a great deal of confusion during the past years. This was thrashed out and all agreed that the newspaper men should embody this question in the laws and constitution of the league. In the best judgment of the newspaper men all the players for the league were selected.

Writers of the Constitution

The writers of the constitution and by-laws of the new league were Dave Wyatt, Indianapolis Ledger; Elwood C. Knox, Indianapolis Freeman; Cary B. Lewis, Chicago Defender, and Attorney Ellsha Scott of Topeka, Kan. These men were up all Friday night and part of Saturday morning, framing the "baseball bill of rights", to guide the destiny of the future league.

At noon Friday it was brought before the conference. The preamble was

read and adopted. The constitution was read by articles and sections. Correction after correction was made and finally it was approved by Attorney Elisha Scott. The constitution was signed by Andrew Foster, American Giants, Chicago; C. I. Taylor, A. B. C.'s, Indianapolis, Ind.; "Tenny" Blunt, Detroit Stars, Detroit, Mich.; Chicago Giants, Joe Green, Chicago; J. V. Wilkerson, Kansas City Monarchs, Kansas City, Mo.; Lorenzo Cobb, St. Louis Giants, St. Louis, Mo. Each manager paid his \$500 fee to bind them to the league and constitution.

Will Operate Next Season

The Western Circuit, National Baseball League, will not operate until next season. This meeting is the foundation for next year. The circuit will not

officially operate until each city has a park, either leased or owned and this will undoubtedly be by April 1, 1921. Those who had no lease this year claimed they would have one next sea-

son. Mr. Matthews of the Dayton Marcos, who was ill with the "flu," sent a special delivery letter stating that he would be in perfect harmony with whatever was done at the meeting. He sent his per ratio to pay for the expense of the newspaper men who acted as arbitrators. Several road teams had representatives and paid their part of the fee to play in the circuit as per schedule. Nat C. Strong of the Nat C. Strong Amusement Company, New York City, sent a letter stating that he was ready to do anything that would promote the best interests of baseball all over the country. After the Western Circuit is put into operation successfully Mr. Foster will then call a meeting of the organization of a National Baseball League, taking in every large baseball city in the east.

Newspaper Men Select Players

The newspaper men had the day at the meeting. No manager had aught to say about players. They were selected on account of their RELATIVE STRENGTH to each team. The newspaper men will form an arbitration board to settle all disputes and act as publicity agents for games.

The fololwing the players selected for the teams in 1921:

Detroit Stars—Pete Hill, Bruce Petway, Frank Warfield, Edgar Wesley, Joe Hewitt, Mac Eggerson, LeRoy Roberts, Henderson E. Eoyd, Holland, Richard Whitworth, Jimmy Lyons, Johnson Hill, Lefty Hill.

Kansas City—John Donaldson, Joe Mendez, Frank Blukol, Jackson, Walter Muir, Rube Currie, Rodrigue, Portorduna, Sam Crawford, Wilbur Rogan, W. Harris, Baro.

St. Louis Giants—Tillie McAdoo, Dah Kenard, Charles Brooks, Charles Scott, William Drake, Danridge, Felix Wallace, Charles Blackwell, Eddie Holt, John Tinner, Hill.

American Giants—George Dixon, Jas. Brown, Leroy Grant, Elwood DeMosa, Robert Williams, David Malacher, J. E. Reese, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Williams, Richard Lundy, Christopher Torrenti, Edw. Gans.

Chicago Giants—Lawrence Simpson, Walter Ball, Lemuel McDugal, Edward Jones, John Beckwith, William Greene, Thurman Jennings, Frank, Jefferies.

Horace Jenkins, Joe Green, Clarence
Winston, Tom Clark.
Taylor's A. B. C.'s—James Jefferies,
J. Taylor, Marten Clark, Russell Pow-
ell, Ragland, William Webster, Oscar
Charleston, Ed. Rile, Murray, William
Dismukes, Decatur Johnson.

Chicago Defender, Chicago, IL

Saturday, February 21, 1920, Page 9, Columns 1 and 2