

PITFALLS of BASEBALL

Written Exclusively for the Chicago Defender by Andrew ("Rube") Foster,
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In one of my previous articles I asked that the owners of clubs write for the plan of an organization or working agreement between the various clubs. In this plan we were to have a regular western circuit, composed of Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, St. Louis, Kansas City, the eastern circuit to be composed of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, both to be two separate organizations, the same as National



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and American Leagues, the winner of each circuit to meet the winner in a world's championship series. This would have been the salvation of baseball. But to date I have received but one letter that would be interesting; that letter came from Washington.

Fans Due Consideration

It would have been in keeping with the times for such a circuit as named above to do something concrete as a stepping stone to success; that would warrant the continuance of the patronage that they have enjoyed, based solely on their loyalty to the Race. This cannot be kept at the present stand; there is something the people want, that their patronage demands, something that would make them appreciate their children entering a profession that would equal the earning capacity of any other profession, and that thing can be done only as the 128 leagues operated by the whites, that have measured their efforts with permanent success, so much so that a graduate from Yale, Princeton and many large medical schools and colleges of law have laid aside their col-

lege professions to become ball players, merely because it paid them better to do so. We can do the same thing, but only in patterning after the system of success used by them.

A better circuit could not be arranged than the one outlined, even if we only got the support of Colored people. The smallest Colored Population in either city is 50,000, running to 150,000. They would rally around any progressive move, the same as they have rallied around us, knowing we were doing nothing, with hopes for our advance from the old system of parading under false pretenses.

Nothing Invested in Baseball

I have made baseball a study. My ready knowledge of the things accomplished by the different clubs made it possible for me to write these articles. Did you know that Hilldale, Royal Giants, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago Giants, Dayton and hundreds of other ball clubs, wonderful investments as owners of clubs, have no assets that you can realize fifty dollars as a loan; that the Lincoln Giants, St. Louis and Chicago were the only places with assets; that the

assets of the American Giants cost an expenditure of more money than all the Colored parks combined; that it was built new from the ground at a cost greater than the combined cost of all the Negro parks?

I want to speak some cold, hard facts to the men that refused to co-operate with such a move, knowing that they have permanently erased their chances to permanently figure in baseball, and very soon you will see these progressive owners of bunk paying their way to see baseball played by Colored clubs. Cost of ball parks and the advanced price of real estate in all large cities have doubled in price; the cost of materials, workers and everything necessary to operate a ball park or club has advanced 50 per cent. This will require many thousand dollars to even build a park. If such money could be secured, the building restrictions are such that in none of the large cities could a permit be secured. First you have to get consent to build from the property owners that surround the ground. As no Colored person owns any place around any available space (north), this permit can only be had through

the whites. Thus they are eliminated by circumstances. Even were such conditions eliminated, the amount of money necessary to operate a club, you would only find a man escaped from the insane asylum that would put money into such a proposition, not knowing where they were to get off.

I have fought against delivering Colored baseball into the control of

whites, thinking that with a show of patronage from the fans we would get together. The get-together effort has been a failure. In justice to myself and the many players that will eventually benefit by ownership with system, money and parks, admitting that I cannot prevent it much longer, as in the past, I had better see that the snow does not stay in my yard after these many hard years of effort.

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