

Formation of the Negro National League

On February 13 and 14, 1920 several baseball executives met in Kansas City, MO at the Y.M.C.A. and formed the Negro National League. Team owners representing the following cities attended the meeting: Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Baseball executives and newspaper reporters that attended the meeting in Kansas City were:

Executive	Team
Andrew "Rube" Foster	Chicago American Giants
Joe Green	Chicago Giants
John "Tenny" Blount	Detroit Stars
C.I. Taylor	Indianapolis ABCs
J.L. Wilkinson	Kansas City Monarchs
Lorenzo S. Cobb	St. Louis Stars
W.A. Kelly	Washington, D.C.
Elmwood C. Knox	<u>Indianapolis Freeman</u>
Charles Marshall	<u>Indianapolis Ledger</u>
Gary B. Lewis	<u>Chicago Defender</u> (sports editor)
Frank Young	<u>Chicago Defender</u>
Elisha Scott	Attorney
Dave Wyatt	Journalist

Agustin Molina (Cuban Stars) and John Matthews (Dayton Marcos) did not attend the meeting but made it known prior to the meeting that they were both in favor of the new league proposed by Foster.

During the meeting, Andrew "Rube" Foster of the Chicago American Giants was elected as President of the Negro National league.

Each team paid a \$ 500 franchise fee to the "league."

Prior to the meeting, Rube Foster incorporated the Negro National League in the states of Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. These states are where Foster saw the teams playing most of their games.

The constitution and bylaws of the Negro National League were written by Elisha Scott, Gary B. Lewis, Ellwood Knox and Dave Wyatt.

Originally the plans were to start the season in 1921, but there was so much excitement about the "new" league that season play was scheduled to begin in May of 1920.

BASEBALL MAGNATES HOLD CONFERENCE

Sporting Editor of Defender
Elected Secretary

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 12.—Representatives of the baseball teams of the west arrived here today and went into session at the Y.

M. C. A., with the following baseball magnates present:

J. T. Blunt, Detroit, Mich., Detroit Stars; W. A. Kelly, Washington, D. C., organized baseball of the national capital; L. S. Cobb, secretary of the St. Louis Giants baseball team; John Matthews, Dayton, Ohio; Joe Green, Chicago, Ill.; C. I. Taylor,



Cary B. Lewis

A. B. C.'s, Indianapolis, Ind.; Elwood C. Knox of the Indianapolis Freeman, Indianapolis, Ind.; Andrew ("Rube") Foster, American Giants, Chicago, Ill.; Charles Marshall, Indianapolis Ledger, Indianapolis, Ind.; J. L. Wilkerson, this city, and Cary B. Lewis, sporting editor of the Chicago Defender.

Temporary Officers Elected

On motion of "Tunny" Blunt, Detroit, Mich., Mr. Foster was nominated and elected temporary president. Cary B. Lewis of the Defender was elected secretary. The aim and object of the meeting was discussed and the plan for a circuit for the season of 1921 came up for consideration. Every manager was very enthusiastic and said he would carry the same enthusiasm back to his home town. The outlook for 1921, they claim, would be the greatest history of baseball.

Foster Springs Big Surprise

One of the big surprises of the first day's meeting was when "Rube" Foster uncovered the fact that he had a charter, incorporated, for a National Negro Baseball League. When "Rube" displayed the charter the "magnates" were dumfounded. The league is incorporated in the states of Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. Then Mr. Foster and Mr. Blunt discussed tentative plans for the circuit of 1921. Dr. Howard Smith met the delegations at the depot. A smoker and dinner has been arranged. The second day's meeting will be held tomorrow. The visitors are stopping at the "Y."

Organize Base Ball League

Best Colored Players in the
Country Included in Five
Team League

Kansas City, Feb. 25—The National Negro Baseball League has been organized here, with Ruber Foster, of Chicago as president. The constitution and by-laws of the league were written by Dave Wyatt, Indianapolis Ledger; Attorney Elisha Scott, Topeka, Kan.; Cary B. Lewis, Chicago Defender and Elwood C. Knox, Indianapolis Freeman. The teams and players include:

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

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

St. Louis Gaints—Tillie McAdoo, Dan Kenard, Charles Brooks, Charles Scott, Wm. Drake, Danridge Felix Wallace, Charles Blackwell, Eddie Holt, John Tinner, Hill.

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

Chicago Gaints—Lawrence Simpson, Walter Ball, Lemuel McIngal, Edward Jones, John Beckwith, William Green, 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 Powell, Ragland, William Webster, Oscar Clarkston, Ed Rile, Murray, William Dismukes, Decatur Johnson.

The teams that competed in the inaugural season of the Negro National League and the final order of standing were as follows:

1920	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	45	32-13	.711
Detroit Stars	58	35-23	.603
Kansas City Monarchs	70	41-29	.586
Indianapolis ABCs	74	39-35	.527
Cuban Stars	45	21-24	.467
St. Louis Giants	57	25-32	.439
Dayton Marcos	26	8-18	.308
Chicago Giants	28	4-24	.143

The Bacharach Giants were an Associate Member of the "league" in 1920.

Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants won the inaugural Negro National League title. There was no Play-Off Series held.