

WHO ARE THE NEGRO WORLD CHAMPIONS?

(By Q. J. Gilmore)

Several fans have asked just who are the real Negro Champions of Base ball. All Champion base ball teams come from reconized or organized base ball league. The National Negro Base Ball League is the first and the only Negro base ball league in this country. Yes, I again repeat that this league is the only Negro base ball league in the country. We have an eight club league

playing a regular number of games with each club. Our league is the only Negro league permitted to use big league parks. We are using right at this time the league parks of Kansas City, Indianapolis, Toledo, Milwaukee, and Birmingham, and still we have the use of the great Redland field at Cincinnati. Chicago, Detroit, and St. Louis have their own parks. We will not and could not play against white base ball players that have been banished from the big leagues. Our league is the only Negro league that has ever played a regular league team with the same players that the big league team has gone through the season with. The Monarchs met and defeated the K. C. Blues, who in turn defeated the Baltimore team for the Big Minor Championship. The A. B. C.'s played the Indianapolis team of the American

Association. The Tate Stars of Cleveland played the Cleveland Indians under the leadership of the great Tris Speaker. The St. Louis Stars met and defeated the Detroit Tigers and the St. Louis Cardinals and the St. Louis Browns, and I was a guest of Big Chief Foster last fall when his American Giants met and defeated the Detroit Tigers with their regular lineup with the exception of Ty Cobb. Now judge for your self if we have a league that is in a way recognized by the big leagues. A man that is a property owner is a more valuable citizen than the man that does not own a home. Our league has thousands of dollars invested in base ball property and no player or set of players should kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

People can hear most anything in the streets of a city as big as this

live burg, but let me say right here, that I know that Boss Wilkinson has and is still doing more for the members of the Champion Monarchs than any other owner in Negro base ball. It has been my good fortune and will be again this season to travel with the team, and I know that I have the first time yet to ride all night on a train without going to bed on a sleeping car. We always have a private car to ourselves. On our last trip to Birmingham we had a regular standard sleeping car going and coming and had our meals served to us in our private car right from the regular dining car. Railroads have

held their regular trains as long as one hour waiting for one of our teams to make connections. And on one occasion they made up a Special

so as to get the team to Chicago on time. These things I mention to let the fans see for them selves. The best accommodations in a city where we are playing are secured for the members of the Monarchs. In Detroit we stop at the Biltmore Hotel, in St. Louis we stop at the Dunbar and the Grand Central, in Indianapolis we have the use of a private stopping place equal of any in the country, also we have a standing invitation to use the Y. M. C. A., from their good Secretary, Mr. De France. in Chicago we use the Columbia Hotel last season on account of its location, but had made arrangements to use the great Hotel Vincennse but several of the boys thought that it was too far away. In Cincinnati we stop at the best hotel in the city. In Columbus, Ohio we stop at the Hotel Litchford one of the finest

hotels in the country and when the team comes to dear old Kansas City they stop at the great Hotel Street. Life in our league is tough on a base ball player stopping at such places and riding at night in Pullman police cars and eating on the dinners. Yes I might say that it is also hard having to go down to the Sunny South where the bananas grow while the local fans are at home firing the furnaces and sweeping the snow from the sidewalks. Yes it is tough.

The Grand Old Men of Base Ball.

There are today several players still active in the game as players that are a great credit to the game. Men who if they were white would have their names carved in the hall of fame. There is the great Donaldson, Joe Mendez, John Lloyd, Bingo DeMoss, Grant, McNair, Petway.

McAdoo, men who for the past 10 or 12 years have been real stars and still considered stars today. There is old Sam Crawford one of the best hot weather pitchers in the game.

It is expected that the race for the pennant this year will be the hottest ever waged in this league. Foster has more than 100 men on his list and from that list he expects to select such players that will lead him to another pennant. Detroit must be considered as Tenny Blunt has added several new men to his last year's team which only missed winning the pennant by the small margin of one game. The Monarchs could stand pat on last year's team and make a hot fight for the pennant. Several prominent players have expressed a desire to come to Kansas City but no action can be taken concerning these players until Boss Wilkinson

goes to Pittsburg in the next few days to meet with the joint meeting of the National Negro League and representatives from the Eastern League.

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