

PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION


OF THE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF

Professional Base Ball Players,

HELD IN





NEW YORK CITY,

MARCH 17, 1871.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:

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1871.



MEETING

OF THE

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OF

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HELD AT

No. 840 BROADWAY, NEW YORK,

Friday Evening, March 17, 1871.

PROCEEDINGS.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. J. W. Scofield, at 7.30, P. M., who nominated Mr. Jas. N. Kerns as Chairman, and N. E. Young, Secretary.—Carried.

The Secretary stated the call for the meeting.

Mr. Scofield moved that a committee of three be appointed on permanent organization.—Carried. The Chair appointed Messrs. Scofield, Wright and Davidson as such committee.

The following named gentlemen presented credentials:

JAMES N. KERNS, *Athletic, Philadelphia, Pa.*

N. E. YOUNG, *Olympic, Washington, D. C.*

ALEX. V. DAVIDSON,

Mutual, New York.

J. W. SCOFIELD, *Union, Troy, N. Y.*

WM. H. RAY, *Eckford, Brooklyn.*

HARRY WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

HARRY WRIGHT, *Forest City, Rockford, Ill.*
 J. F. EVANS, *Forest City, Cleveland, O.*
 J. M. THATCHER, *White Stockings, Chicago, Ill.*
 O. R. HOUGH, *National, Washington, D. C.*

The committee on permanent organization recommended that this Association be designated as the "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL BASE BALL PLAYERS," and also that the following named officers be created by the Association, to wit: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. After considerable debate, the report, on motion of Mr. Ray, was accepted and the recommendations of the committee adopted, subject to the approval of the clubs represented in the convention by their proper officers. Moved and seconded that a committee of three be appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.—Carried. The Chair appointed Messrs. Scofield, Wright and Davidson.

The committee reported in favor of the following named gentleman, as officers of the Association for the ensuing year: *President*, James N. Kerns; *Vice President*, J. F. Evans; *Secretary*, N. E. Young; *Treasurer*, J. W. Scofield.

The chair announced the next business in order that of arranging match tours. Mr. N. E. Young, on behalf of the *Olympic Club*, of Washington, presented their programme for a tour, from the 15th to the 27th of May, inclusive. It was moved and seconded that the programme of the *Olympic Club* be agreed to.—Carried.

The *Chicago Club* next presented a programme for three Eastern tours. After considerable debate it was decided to arrange for the first tour only from May 29th to June 15th.

The *Forest City Club*, of Cleveland, Ohio, next presented their programme for a tour from June 12 to June 29th, inclusive.—Agreed to.

The *Forest City Club*, of Rockford, next claimed the date from June 19th to July 9th, which was allowed them.

On motion of Mr. Thatcher, the constitution and by-laws of the "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION," as adopted at the last November convention, so far as they do not conflict with the interests of professional clubs, were adopted for the government of this Association.

On motion of Mr. Hough, the convention

proceed to consider the question of champions of the United States. Mr. Kerns read resolutions adopted by the *Athletic Club* in relation to this question. Mr. Young offered the following resolutions, which were carried unanimously:

Resolved, that inasmuch as the title of champions of the United States is a nominal one only, without any authority for, or rule to govern it, not being recognized by the National Association, therefore be it

Resolved, that this convention hereby authorizes a championship title to be contested for by the various professional clubs in the country, and decided as hereinafter set forth, and to be governed by the following rules:

1st. All clubs desiring to contest for the championship must make application in writing to the chairman of the championship committee, hereinafter mentioned, on or before May 1st, 1871; and no club to be admitted after that date, except in case of failure of application to reach him. Each application to be accompanied by a remittance of (\$10) ten dollars. The Chairman to keep a record of the clubs so

applying, and to announce the names of the clubs contesting for the title, by publication.

2d. The series for the championship to be best three in five games, each club to play best three in five games with every other contesting club, at such time and place as they may agree upon: the first games played to be the championship series, unless otherwise specified in writing, and all games to be played before November 1, 1871.

3d. The club winning the greatest number of games, in the championship series, with clubs entering for the championship during the season, shall be declared champions of the United States, and so certified to by a committee of three, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of this convention, and who shall be known as the Championship Committee, and to the Chairman of which committee each club shall send its record on or before November 1st, 1871.

4th. In case of a tie between two or more contesting clubs, the committee shall examine the records of the clubs so tying, and the one having the best average in championship con-

test, to be declared champions of the United States.

5th. A championship streamer shall be purchased by the said championship committee, with the funds accompanying the application of clubs, and present the same, on or before November 15, 1871, to the club entitled to receive it.

6th. The club winning the championship at the end of the season shall be entitled to fly the streamer until the close of the following season, and then to be given to the club that the championship committee shall declare to be entitled to receive it.

The following resolution, as offered by Mr. Young and amended by Mr. Scofield, was unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, that the question of selecting an umpire between contending clubs be arranged by the visiting club presenting the names of five persons to the local club to select one of their number, and that sufficient time be given before the day of play to make such arrangements. The persons named for selection shall be known and acknowledged as competent men for the position, and shall be chosen from three

or more clubs. In case the umpire selected should fail, from some unknown cause, to appear on the day of the game, then the umpire shall be selected by the two captains of the contesting nines.

Mr. Evans offered the following resolution which was carried :

Resolved, that any base ball player who is under an existing and valid contract to play ball with any club belonging to the Association shall not be eligible to play with any club in a match game, until each contract is honorably cancelled.

Mr. Thatcher offered the following, which was agreed to :

Resolved, that in case the services of a player are claimed by more than one club, each club so interested may select the President of another club, and those two a third, which three shall have power to send for persons and papers, and decide the question, and their action shall be binding.

Mr. Scofield offered the following resolution, which was carried :

That in case the club to which a player belongs does not live up to their agreement

with the player, then the player, after a fair trial before the committee on championship, and the club found guilty of wrong, shall be declared freed from his contract.

Mr. Thatcher offered the following :

Resolved, that when this convention adjourns, it adjourns to meet at Chicago, on the first Monday in December, 1871.

Mr. Scofield moved to amend by inserting Troy, and March, 1872.—Lost.

Mr. Evans offered an amendment, which was agreed to, that when this convention adjourns, it adjourns to meet in Cleveland, on the first Monday in March, 1872.

On motion, a recess of fifteen minutes was taken, for the purpose of partaking of some refreshments kindly furnished by the *Mutual Club*.

The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Haynie, for a copy of the Rules of the National Association.

The President announced the following committees for the ensuing year.

Judiciary.—Messrs. Thatcher, Young, Ray, Scofield, Mason, Wright, Davidson, Waldo and Kerns.

Rules.—Messrs. Evans, Ray, Thatcher, Waldo and Scofield.

Printing.—Messrs. Young, Scofield and Wright.

Nominations.—Messrs. Davidson, Thatcher and Evans.

Championship.—Messrs. Wright, Davidson and Young.

Communication of H. A. Dobson, in reference to scoring, was referred to championship committee.

The thanks of the Association were tendered the *Mutual Base Ball Club* of New York, for their kind reception and hospitality; when, on motion, the convention adjourned.

JAMES N. KERNS,
President.

N. E. YOUNG,
Secretary.