

# NATIONAL IS NOW 32 YEARS OLD

Grand Old Baseball League Cele-  
brates Its Anniver-  
sary.

ORGANIZED JAN. 29, 1876.

Brief But Interesting History of the  
Career of National Pastime—  
Builesey First President.

The National League celebrated its  
thirty-second anniversary last month.  
President Harry C. Pulliam notified all  
club owners to that effect. On January  
29, 1876, the grand old organization was  
formed, and while there have been  
several times, the league is still one of  
the premier in the country.

The first president of the league was  
Hon. Morgan G. Bullesey, who, afterwards  
governor, and now United  
States senator, served only one year.

It was succeeded by the late William A.  
Hurlbut of Chicago, who served from  
1877 until 1882.

The present president of the National  
league was A. G. Mills of New York.

He was elected in A. G. Mills of New  
York.

Young of Washington, who had been  
secretary from the beginning of the  
organization, was also appointed in 1885,

and he was until 1902 when he was  
succeeded by Harry C. Pulliam.

In his thirty-two years of existence the  
league has been controlled by only three  
secretaries, the last being N. E. Young, Harry  
Pulliam and the present official, John  
A. Heyder.

The clubs that made up the league

when it was organized in 1876 were Chi-  
cago, Boston, Mutuals of New York,  
Athletics of Philadelphia and Louisville.

The Louis, Cincinnati and Louisville.

The Pittsburgh club, which did not admit  
until the late W. A. N. Imick was pres-  
ident of Pittsburgh's first club in the Na-  
tional league.

The Chicago club won the first cham-  
pionship of the National league, and it  
may be interesting to the fan to know  
that the first winning pitcher was Nick  
Altrock.

Altrock, a tall, thin, thin-ribbed, and  
as Chancy Cooksley says the only time that  
Nick is quiet is when he is asleep.

Of course Altrock's conversation is  
mainly on the winning order, and he is a  
good sport, indeed.

Just before the close of the recent  
baseball season, when it was seen that  
the Chicago club, which had been picked  
to win the coming championship, would not win out, the majority  
of the members of the team could not  
talk enough among themselves as to why  
they had not beaten the Detroit outfit

Loudest among the players of the  
Windy City club when it came to spelling  
out the reason was Nick, the irrepressible  
Nick Altrock.

One night the Chicago players were in  
a certain hotel in Philadelphia, and after  
parties had been given for the better  
part of the night, Nick turned to him  
with a weary expression on his cherubic countenance and exclaimed:

"It's pity, Nick that you're not a  
woman."

"Why?" cried Nick, in a puzzled man-  
ner.

"Because then," replied Rohe, "you  
could give your chin an excellent rest."

**TOMMY BURNS AND  
ROCHE MARCH 17th.**

London, March 15.—The fight between  
Tommy Burns, the American heavyweight  
fighter, and Jim Roche of Dublin,  
will take place at Dublin, March 17, unless  
Burns injured eye becomes so bad  
that he cannot see.

Burns wrote to the Dublin promoters of  
the fight asking them if they would con-  
sider a postponement on account of his  
injury, but they made no reply, but in  
interviews they have declared them-  
selves as against a change of date, say-  
ing that the house has sold out and  
that there will be difficulty in getting  
together at another time such a large  
audience of spectators.

The fight, therefore, will take place as scheduled, unless  
Burns' eye grows worse.

The injury was suffered slightly, but  
is more serious, and the eye was com-  
pletely closed for twelve hours. It is decided  
to keep him in bed for a week, but  
it is expected that he will be able to return  
to the ring in a few days.

The National Sporting club has received  
a letter from the manager of Jack Johnson,  
the American negro fighter, asking  
whether the club could arrange a fight  
between Johnson and Burns on the terms

of the New York Americans.

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after the close of the recent season, Mr.  
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losing money, he said, and that the  
club was responsible for his hitting only 20 last season.

This may have had something to do  
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Frank Farrel, the owner of the New  
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