



The All Nation Baseball Club. *Left to right:* E. A. Backlin, J. Miller, H. R. Briggs, J. Martinez, H. Beckwith, J. Ward, H. Dickson, W. Bull, C. Kelly, H. Kibby, E. Hanley and I. Tashiro

The All Nation Baseball Club

How the Various Races which Have Adopted Baseball Find Representation on a Single Chicago Club

By E. H.

THE best illustration of baseball as a world sport, is a single team whose players represent the various nationalities that have adopted the great American game. True, the idea is not unique. Some years ago a club of this nature was organized and sent upon the road, under whose guiding hand I cannot say. A sporting goods store in Kansas City furnished the uniforms for the club, and they played a rather extensive schedule. No doubt the plan was largely a clever advertising stunt, but it had the germ of a most excellent idea.

Some time later, a similar sporting goods store in Des Moines, Iowa, furnished uniforms for this club. The scheme met with a considerable local notoriety and suffered a lapse, for what reason I do not know.

At the beginning of this season, Mr. E. A. Backlin and I came to the conclusion that an All-Nation Baseball Club would be a distinct feature in itself and a popular drawing card, provided it could be promoted solely on its own merits, aside from any value it might have as a local advertising agency. We immediately set about gathering all the different races we could get together, to construct such a club. Such a task was by no means a simple one, for while it is relatively easy to get in touch with individuals from every race who are interested in athletics, and even interested in baseball, it is by no means easy to get such representatives who can fill the precise positions on the diamond allotted to them and who are willing to devote their time and efforts to making

the proposition a sound financial success.

Nevertheless, in spite of adverse conditions, we were able to make substantial progress and have a club which we claim is worthy of the title which it assumed as the All-Nation Baseball Club. It was never our purpose to see how many nationalities could be represented on our club, as such a plan would be an absurdity, not to say an impossibility. Our object was the simpler one of creating a ball club which should comprise representatives from every race familiar with the game of baseball. The races which are represented on the All-Nation Baseball Club are four in number, namely, the Caucasian, the Ethiopian, the Mongolian and the Red race, represented by our native Indians.

It is true that all our players are not major league stars, nor do we claim them as such. They are, however, all professional baseball players, and among the best of their type. I give below a brief outline of each player, as he appears in the accompanying photograph, reading from right to left.

E. A. Backlin, at the extreme left, is acting business manager of the club. He has been connected with baseball and other sports for many years and is a well-known sport writer from Chicago's South Side. It was mainly through his efforts that the team was organized, and to him was allotted much of the difficult task of bringing representative players of the different races together on the club. Next in line is J. Miller, a representative of the dominant white race, a pitcher with several years'

experience as a ball player in Chicago and its immediate vicinity. To his left is H. R. Briggs, also white, first baseman of the club. Briggs was formerly a player in the New England League. By his side is J. Martinez, our left fielder, who is nearly a full-blooded Indian, a representative of our once great but rapidly diminishing Red race. Martinez attended Haskell Institute and played with the Nebraska Indians for several seasons. Next, in line is Stanley Beckwith, also an outfielder, who is a Negro, a representative of the Ethiopian race. Beckwith also has had long experience as a ball player and his work has been favorably known in and about Chicago for several years. J. Ward, third baseman, is also a Negro and highly rated as an infielder. H. Dickson, also colored, formerly pitched with the American Giants. Our catcher, White Bull by name, is a full-blooded Indian. He is well known throughout the Northwest, having caught for several seasons with the Nebraska Indians. Another pitcher in our line-up, C. Kelly, is a colored player with many years of semi-professional experience. H. Kibby, white, our short stop, is a most competent infielder. E. P. Hanley, also white, a catcher, had a try-out with the Chicago Cubs, but on account of his youth—he is now under 21—was sent to Peoria of the Three-I League for more experience. He has been called the snappiest catcher playing semi-pro. ball in Chicago. The last man in the line-up is I. Tashiro, a representative of the great

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Mongolian race, a Japanese, a graduate of the University of Chicago, at present completing a course in a Chicago dental college. Tashiro is a regular pitcher, but he can also play the outfield and infield with equal ability.

Our original plans contemplated daily baseball contests with promising clubs in Chicago or its environs. On account of existing war conditions, however, our original plans have undergone a considerable revision and our games are now limited to Saturday, Sunday and holiday contests.

It might be supposed at first blush that our main bid for popularity was our varied assortment of players. It is true that this is probably the most striking feature of the team, but it is equally true that we have endeavored to create a baseball club which can give a good account of itself with any semi-pro ball club in the country.
