

League Approves Sale of Browns; Permits Night Ball in St. Louis

**Club Owners Pass on Transfer to Syndicate Headed by Barnes and De Witt for \$325,000—Hornsby Likely to Remain
—Cards Also Plan to Play 7 Games Under Lights.**

By The Associated Press.

CHICAGO, Nov. 12.—The St. Louis Browns, for years the weak link in the American League, were placed in the care of new owners today.

The transfer, involving the franchise and players, became official when five representatives of the St. Louis purchasing syndicate appeared before club owners of the American League in a special meeting to receive unanimous approval. The syndicate, which purchased the Browns for \$325,000 in cash, has been capitalized for \$500,000, leaving a balance of \$175,000 for development of the team.

The names of eighteen syndicate members were revealed. They are headed by Donald Lee Barnes, investment banker, who is slated to become president of the new organization, with William O. De Witt, for nineteen years an official of the St. Louis Cardinals' organization, to become vice president and general manager.

Stand on Lights Altered

The league, after accepting the new club backers, agreed to allow night baseball for the first time. Two years ago, when the National League voted approval of night ball, the American League refused to swerve from its course of playing baseball only during the day-time. But because of pressure from the Cardinals, who also use the Browns' park, lights will be installed and a few games after sundown will be played by the Browns next season.

The new owners were instructed to meet with the Cardinal representatives and those of the Phil De C. Ball estate, which retains ownership of Sportsman's Park, and agree on scheduling a limited number of night games. Probably seven games each, the arrangement the National League has in effect since lights were installed at Cincinnati, will be scheduled for the

Browns and Cardinals. This plan, however, will have to be submitted later to the American and National Leagues for approval.

Actual transfer of the club to the new syndicate will be effected at St. Louis probably next Monday. Rogers Hornsby, manager of the Browns, whose contract at \$18,000 a season has two more years to run, undoubtedly will be retained, syndicate members said.

A Protégé of Rickey

De Witt, who engineered the deal, grew up in baseball, starting as a peanut vendor. Branch Rickey, general manager of the Cardinals, became interested in him and urged him to study law while working as a stenographer for Rickey. Later De Witt became Rickey's assistant. He will resign from the Cardinals' organization to assume his new duties.

Members of the syndicate include socially prominent and wealthy men of St. Louis, who intend to sell stock in St. Louis with the idea of stimulating interest in the club. Among them are Talton T. Francis and Samuel C. McCluney, investment bankers; Frank Rand, Andrew Johnson, W. N. Sitton, officials of a shoe-manufacturing company; George C. Foster, Anthony Buford, Thomas C. McPheeters, Rhodes E. Cave and George H. Williams, lawyers.

Grand Rapids Man Included

Also Herbert Waltke, James R. Kearney Sr., Howard Stephens, Bradford Shinkle, W. C. Haeussler and Alonzo C. Curtis, the last named of Grand Rapids, Mich.

After disposing of the St. Louis situation the club owners discussed a plan of placing all radio broadcasts of league games under uniform contracts to the league so that announcers with a tendency to criticize umpires and players might be checked.