

ORIGINAL CELTICS (1920)

(*Standing, left to right*) Chris Leonard, Bart Meany, James A. Furey, Mgr., Tom Furey, John Whitty, George Haggerty.

(*Seated, left to right*) Mike Smolick, John Beckman, Ernie Reich, Nat Holman, Pete Barry.



hostile crowds and officials, were encountered by the New Yorkers, but they carried the torch so adequately in hamlets as well as in prominent cities, that few blemishes such as occasional defeats marred their escutcheons. Their scientific performances left a lasting impression upon all. Thousands of victories crowned their efforts, and while few of the original Shamrock wearers cavort on the wooden runway today, the name is still capably carried on the road by successors.

The past ten years have marked the rise to prominence of two great colored teams in the Renaissance Club of New York City and the Harlem Globe Trotters of Chicago. Both of these knights of the road are exponents of the higher type of basketball perfection, and brilliant records have been compiled by them all over the United States and Canada during the period of their organization.

The Metropolitan League started a successful eight-year period of activity in 1921, and in turn produced another crop of newer stars among its clubs, located entirely in the Greater New York area, with prominence created principally through the development of a remarkable Brooklyn Visitation combination.

A prominent group of sportsmen then saw the possibility for professional basketball in the Midwest, and in 1925 the American League was established, to assume a position of more important national aspect than any of the others since 1891. The assemblage of clubs in its roster included teams from Boston, Mass., to Chicago, Ill., and in a few months practically all of the better known Eastern stars were enrolled on the rosters of clubs in that

circuit. Salaries were paid to a considerable number as high as \$1,000 per month, to a selected group as high as \$1,500 per month, and in one instance \$2,000 per month. This league functioned with various changes until 1931 when it was felt that the serious setback suffered by all sports due to the depression made it necessary to suspend Eastern and Western engagements for a short period of time. The majority of the Celtics played and won several championships for the Cleveland Rosenblums during this period.

For two years the American League remained dormant, only to be reorganized in 1933 to operate solely in Eastern cities, where it is still functioning. In this phase of the game's development a new contender has arisen to claim a spot in the basketball firmament, equally as effulgent as any of its predecessors, in the Philadelphia Sphas, winners of five American League titles in the past eight years.

The heritage left by the players of bygone days has provided a tradition and record unsurpassed by any other professional sport in the annals of American history. Former Governors, Senators, Congressmen, a Chairman of the National Baseball Commission, Mayors, Judges, Executives in responsible charge of industrial companies, Bankers, State Officials high in legislative chambers, Police Inspectors, Surgeons of international recognition, High School Principals and others in all walks of life can attribute part of their success to the ideas inculcated in their years of professional basketball activities.