
**MINUTES OF PREPLAYOFF MEETING
MAY 13, 2000
IRISH CULTURAL CENTER, CANTON, MA**

Central: Mike Feeney, Danny O'Donnell
Philadelphia: Tommy Higgins
Western: Hugh Duggan
Atlanta: Michael Dermody
Denver: not present
Northwest: not present
Southern California: John Ryan, Paddy Doherty
Florida: Liam McKenna
Midwest: not present
Northeast: John McDevitt, Mickey Coyne, Pat Bligh, Mickey Grealish, and Ann O'Dea

After inspection of the playing fields and tour of facility meeting Convened at 11:40 a.m.

John McDevitt the Chairman of the Northeast Divisional Board welcomed the North American Board and the Delegates to Canton.

Report from Northeast Divisional Board regarding playoffs:

Fields:

A permit for the second field should be obtained this weekend.

A plan to have a backup field in place was discussed in the event that the permit was not obtained. A definite date when permit will be available and need report as to what plans are.

We need a facility with the three fields in one place. Chairman asked for a definite answer regarding the permit. Need to know today if it's going to be ready. Lot of money involved to get fields ready as well as equipment and manpower.

Mike O'Connor: In 1996 the issue was a second field all delegates left with one field with the hope of second field. Got the field adjacent to Dellboys field letter sent to Paddy Rooney and Pat Uniake that the field was appropriate. Got promise to move fence, games came on the field a enormous branch was on the side. cannot guarantee that the fields will be ready it is a work in progress. The permit is ready to be signed but will not be done without Engineers drawing.

Sean Gannon: Have confidence that field would be done if permit were had. Difficult when you don't have the permit. Wants to support Northeast Board but cannot jeopardize the quality of the playoffs.

In order to have 3rd field done would probably have to sod it. Need answer as to whose putting up \$40,000 to resod, Northeast Board prepared to put up its share sure that Irish Cultural Center will put up its share.

Sean Gannon: If everything goes to plan fields may not withstand games Friday and Saturday, rain could make unplayable. Think would like to discuss would be an alternative location sought for guaranteed available at least 3 fields Friday and Saturday of weekend. All finals would be held in Canton on Sunday. Braintree High school appears to have 3 full size fields available. To get past hurl and get support from all Divisions and don't want any surprises in September.

In 1989 in Cleveland one field prepared rain would make it unplayable. NAB in Cleveland numerous times had alternative place for Friday morning had field available. Divisional Board must find alternative site for Friday and Saturday.

John McDevitt: Its possible that we will have permits by June 1st. Hard to get contract with Braintree.

Middle of May now the information should be looked at before now, if everything doesn't work here what do we do? Go to an Alternate City? That would be a last resort, as it hasn't been done before.

Sean Gannon: If proper communication if we were fully aware of picture we would not be in this situation here today. I know somebody has talked to Braintree, you need to find a place close to the hotel.

Mike O'Connor: There are people here that can get other facilities here.

John McDevitt: The reason we didn't go looking for an alternative place is that we felt that the Irish Cultural Center would feel that we were undermining them.

Sean Gannon: By May 24, 2000 the Northeast Divisional Board needs to show that you have an alternative place for Friday and Saturday.

Jim Grealish: The minor program is part of the playoffs even with 3 fields may need to play games remotely especially in the minor program.

The schedule will be evaluated we will extend hours if necessary to include everyone, Thursday games may have to be discussed.

Hotels:

350 rooms are booked at the Tara (Sheridan) in Braintree, Room rate \$99.00 per room per night double occupancy.

Banquet:

Will be held at the Tara (Sheridan) for 600 people, there will possibly be a Band booked. Admission \$65.00 will try to have an open bar if possible will try to keep price reasonable. Banquet tickets must be paid for 2 weeks prior

Busses:

Will be using School busses, which will be available Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Will run from the Hotel and will come up to the Canton Center. Busses from the Airport will be \$10 return Logan Airport to the Hotel. There will be a Board member on every bus Thurs, Fri, Sat, and Sun. There will be a person at the Hotel on Monday for the bus to the Airport. Flight Itinerary must be submitted to NE Board 2 weeks before the playoffs for busses

Admission:

Will be the same as Chicago; Friday \$10, Saturday \$15 and Sunday \$20
If the Irish Cultural Center will allow a weekend pass will have if not they may not be able to.

Two-Way Radios

Will have 30 available.

Minor/Youth Teams

There will be a separate banquet for the minors.

Competitions in which there are only 3 teams.

Various way in dealing with this were discussed, giving teams a bye, playing a quarter final, finally it was decided that the fairest way is to have a fourth team from the host Division. Northeast has agreed to provide the fourth team in these competitions.

Referees and Officials:

Names of referees to be submitted to Secretary, some Divisions may be having referees coming from Ireland that may be available for the playoffs. Secretary will send out a letter regarding referees and officials. Penalties for not supplying officials will be enforced.

Team Lists

Must be submitted weekly to the Secretary.

Other:

Sean Gannon made reference to a hearing held at the hotel the previous night, he said that All Officers Divisional Board and North American Board officers volunteer to give their time, said he never saw anyone not trying to do the best job possible. We must get rid of the element of behavior towards officials. The NAB is not going to tolerate abuse towards officers of Nab when it comes to decisions made. People that get elected to office need support. One of his priorities will be to address the problems with registration this year. We will address it and move on.

Chairman thanked the Northeast Board for its hospitality.

Meeting adjourned 3:30 p.m.