

# EXCELSIOR'S ONLY PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

## LORENZO PACE HAD BEEN THE CLUB'S CHIEF OFFICER SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1854

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (Sep. 29, 1880) – The only President in the history of Excelsior Base Ball Club announced that he is stepping down from the role and going into retirement this afternoon.

[Lorenzo Pace](#), a 78-year-old born and raised in New York City, was elected the first President of Excelsior when it was [founded on December 8th of 1854](#) at Florence's Hotel on Broadway. He guided the club as one of the founding members of the National Base Ball Organization, and he remained in the role even though Excelsior had its worst-ever year in 1860, finishing 19-51 and 35 games behind first-place Kings Co.

Club members remained confident in Pace's stewardship of the club in spite of its on-field struggles – Excelsior finished last in the Brooklyn Championship in 1858, '59, & '60 – and that faith soon paid off as Pace and new General Manager John Hatfield convinced a five-star prospect named Jim Creighton to join the club. In 1861 the team doubled their win total to finish 38-32, and two years later (1863) they took the first of three Brooklyn pennants in four years as Creighton had a historic Triple Crown season (29-4, 2.29 ERA, 69 K, 6.4 WAR) that put him and the club on the proverbial map.

After those three straight last-place finishes, Excelsior never finished worse than third in Brooklyn over the last ten years they were in the N.B.B.O. before the league split. The team struggled during the inaugural season of the N.B.B.O., finishing with the league's second-worst record (35-55) before slowly working its way to .500 in 1874. After a memorable pennant race saw them finish one game behind American with a 56-34 record in 1875, they finally earned a place in the Founders Cup in 1877 after going 57-33 and besting Knickerbocker by one game in another memorable pennant fight. Excelsior lost Founders Cup VI to St. John's in five games, but at least they and Jim Creighton had the chance to play for the professional baseball title.

Creighton retired following the 1878 season, and the team has struggled to find an identity over the two years since. With that in mind, Pace decided it was time for new leadership, and Stephen Ross, a 46-year-old New Yorker who owns a shipbuilding company, has taken over the reigns in the Excelsior President's office.

Ross is regarded as a demanding, but hands-off, businessman who will likely run Excelsior in the same fashion while expecting the club to remain in the black numbers financially so as not to need any injections of cash. It remains to be seen whether Ross will make major changes to club personnel, but any such moves are likely to take place soon.

Two years after the end of a significant era for Excelsior on the field, a major era has ended for the club off the field as well.