

The Negro Leagues

Timeline: 1860s – 1960s

- League Pioneers
- Hall of Fame Players
- Noteworthy Dates and Teams

By Brian Aldridge

pro-baseball-journal.com & chicagosportsjournal.com

Forward

Dad, Sam, and Jackie

I was about nine or ten when dad introduced me to Sam, the co-owner of the nearby Sinclair gas station (for those who remember: *Drive with care and buy Sinclair*). I wasn't made aware why dad found it so important for me to meet Sam, a quiet but friendly man in his 50s, but he said Sam once played professional baseball. Whoa! That sparked my attention. Whom did he play for? The Cubs? The Sox? Could he have possibly been a NY Yankee? None of the above. With noticeable pride in his voice, Dad mentioned Sam was once a member of the Kansas City Monarchs. This caught me off-guard. The Monarchs? Never heard of them. Did they play pro or semi pro? Thinking back to that day, I am so glad I kept my mouth shut. Yes, they were pro. Big time.

Dad ended up turning our 10-minute conversation into an interview, asking Sam about his experiences playing ball in the 1940s. The former Monarch was gracious, taking his time while recalling what all he could before returning to work. He spoke of long travel days, wearing sweaty uniforms in the summer's heat, eating dry sandwiches, and getting poor sleep. Despite all that, he never lost his love for the game. But I was puzzled. Why was there a league where only blacks played? Moments before we parted ways, Sam quickly mentioned that Jackie Robinson - *the* Jackie Robinson - was a Monarch shortly before he joined the Dodgers. I knew *of* Jackie Robinson; dad *knew* Jackie Robinson, but this bit of news took him by surprise.

There is a back story: Dad and Jackie were classmates and fellow athletes at Pasadena's John Muir Tech high school. While the two ran track, dad was able to watch the multi-gifted Robinson star in football, basketball, and baseball. Were they close friends? No, but they were cordial enough to train side-by-side and play tennis together. Years later, and by chance, dad met Jackie once more. Jackie didn't look well, so their time was not much more than a hello and a brief handshake. A few months later, Robinson passed away at the age of 53. How much did his diabetes affect his health? We didn't know for sure, but dad noted that Jackie looked a lot older than his years.

How might a person age? Here's one reason: Jackie Robinson entered Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962, but *what he had to endure just to play* was more than most of us will ever know. He was keenly aware how hard it was going to be to enter a popular, all-white sport and was warned as such by Branch Rickey, the very person who brought him into the league. But Rickey, the shrewd Brooklyn Dodgers GM, did his homework by sending out scouts to find the ideal player who could possibly change the game's status quo. Some former Negro League players felt Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, or Monte Irvin should have been the first to go, but the choice was made. And Baseball's wall of segregation was about to tumble down.

If Sam was my early intro to the Negro Leagues, my 2nd and 3rd look through old baseball books came next. Of the many glossy black and white photos, none showed a black player standing alongside a white teammate, at least not until 1947 anyway. And anything related to the Negro Leagues (player or team) ended up an addendum instead of being interwoven into the main narrative. In short, photos of black legends like Oscar Charleston, James "Cool Papa" Bell, or Henry "Pop" Lloyd were few, and not much of a visual anchor to build a biography.

Were these alleged legends any good? Yes; so much so that they achieved deep respect from their white opponents. Moreover, when the two sides played exhibition games, white team vs. black team, it was often the black team that won (Smokey Joe Williams of the NY Lincoln Giants went 20-7 vs. white teams)- a fact that displeased MLB's commissioner, Kenesaw Landis. So blacks were separated, barred, and miserable, right? If that was what I thought, Sam (if he were still alive) might take strong issue with me. Yes, they faced hardships, but many Negro League players found a way to make baseball their life. What is more, *it was their choice*: they played the game they loved and were paid to play the game they loved.

If you were to do a quick study, the words *Black*, *Negro*, *Colored*, or *Cuban* were commonly used by writers when a black player joined a white team or signed on with an all-black team. As if it were necessary, such terms were also used to identify a franchise (i.e., Birmingham Black Barons, NY Black Barons, Baltimore Black Sox, and the NY Colored Giants) or as a title, as in the *Negro League All Star Game*, when the best of the best played in front of huge crowds at Chicago's Comiskey Park.

Speaking of the best, one important item must be pointed out. Bill James, a highly respected baseball historian, lists Oscar Charleston (the "Black Honus Wagner") as the 4th best player to have ever put on a uniform. If Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb placed 1st and 2nd, who landed 3rd? The fantastic Willie Mays. Many folks recognize who Mays is, but what about Charleston? This many-tooled player/manager batted .355 vs. major league pitchers but passed away 22 years before he was inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame. There's an incredible backstory to this man as well as the Negro League in general. If interested in either or both, check out the bibliography at the end – or visit the **Negro League Hall of Fame** in Kansas City, Missouri.

Cuban players were also on the outside looking in. It's true that Dolph Luque ("The Pride of Havana") and a few other *light-skinned* Cubans made it to the majors, but other islanders not so "fortunate" ended up forming their own teams and leagues – some of whom later called US cities their home (NY Cubans, Long Branch Cubans). Three of Cuba's greatest Negro League stars, Cristobal Torriente, Jose Mendez, and Martin Dihigo, were all later voted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

While white players battled stingy owners for higher pay, black players contended with a lot more: shorter seasons, unstable teams, and pervasive Jim Crow laws. Once the season was over, some barnstormed local areas or headed to warmer climates west and south. Others held a 2nd job by serving in diners or working at 2nd rate hotels where they were allowed to stay. Yes, they adapted, despite rooming where told, eating where permitted, and using assigned water fountains, or washrooms that served to remind them that though equal, they were to remain separate. What else besides their love for Baseball carried them through?

Two answers: Profound brotherhood for each other and fun on the diamond. There was monotony and some friction, but Sam recalled moments of loud laughter and pranks while they rode the bus, sat on the bench, or clowning around on the field. There was always someone holding court mimicking the antics of an umpire or the odd habits of one of their own. In short, they found ways to survive on-and off the field.

Negro League baseball did continue on after Jackie left the Monarchs - but not for long. It was organized baseball that led to Negro League's origins but also its demise when they began signing top-line players without compensating the team they came from. With Robinson, Campanella, Irvin, Doby and Mays gone, the curtain officially closed in 1962 when the **Negro American League** ceased operations.

More items of note: The longest running Negro League was the AL (1937-61), followed by NL version II (1933-1948) and NL version I (1920-1931). Longest running team: Chicago American Giants (38 years); the Kansas City Monarchs were 2nd (29 years). The most popular name for a Negro League team: *Giants*. Satchel Paige at 42 was no outlier when he joined ML's Cleveland Indians - many Negro League players continued play well into their forties (Willie Wells retired at 42, Cool Papa Bell at 43, and Oscar Charleston at 44).

This timeline is *short*. No photos were added; the biographies are no more than brief sketches, the quotes are few, and the data is basically a summary of the who, what, and where of Negro League baseball. It is also a *living* timeline – details herein are subject to periodic revision. I had no idea who *Octavious Catto* was (page 4) until my 3rd draft, or *James Wilkinson* was (page 9) until my 8th draft, nor what *Satchel Paige did* while playing AA ball in the 1950s (page 15) until version #10. True, AA ball is not Negro League ball, but a record crowd of over 50K showed up simply because of the fame Paige acquired while playing in the Negro League.

Statistics on Negro League teams, games, and players were either spurious, lost, or poorly kept; legendary events - which were many, were largely anecdotal through oral history. So it is with deep thanks to members of **SABR** (Society of Baseball Research), **seamheads.com**, **baseball-research.com**, and others, the study of **Negro League Baseball** is on-going. New facts are unearthed, corrections are made, and context is added to what truly happened. **For Dad, Sam, and Jackie...with tons of affection, Brian**

This is now...but back then...

History books indicate the American Civil War ended in the spring of 1865, but what is less known is that President Andrew Johnson *officially* declared the war over on August 20, 1866 – a year and a half later. A lot happened in 1866: Tennessee was the first Confederate state readmitted into the Union, the 5c nickel was introduced, Jesse James began his outlaw career by robbing banks in Missouri, and the amateur game of Base Ball (as it was then known) resumed play.

This was hardly modern-era baseball. Pitchers (called *hurlers*), threw underhand; batters (aka *strickers*) stood just 45' from the pitcher; fans attending the game were called *cranks*, and it was considered normal that only 1 umpire officiated each game. Sounds almost primitive, right? Fielders didn't use gloves, playing fields looked more like pastures, and scores like 43-23 or 37-29 were not uncommon. Baseball seasons during this era were comparatively short – maybe a few dozen games. What is more, teams were known to disband after a year or two or jump to a more stable league.

The year 1869 was a pivotal one for the sport for 2 reasons: the game turned pro when members of the Cincinnati Red Legs were *paid* to play, and **Bud Fowler** (aka John Jackson), a black man, began his storied career with the all-black Washington (DC) Mutuels. Three years later, Fowler made history by *joining the all-white* New Castle (PA) squad. Fowler was not the only black to play with whites. Others, like scholar and activist **Octavius Catto** of the 1867-69 Pythian (PA) club actually came before him, but Fowler is today considered **the first black pro baseball player**.

Leagues during this era were many. Some were intra-state (i.e. Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, or Connecticut), regional, or classified as independent. The first pro league was the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players (aka the **NA**). The NA began in 1871 and was replaced 5 years later by the **National League**. The all-white NL held a monopoly until 1882, when the **American Association** claimed major league status. The AA lasted just 9 years but not before two black players, **C Moses "Fleet" Walker** and his brother IF/OF **Welday**, joined AA's 1884 Toledo Blue Stockings - thus becoming the **only blacks to play major league baseball**. That is until 1947 when Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers. But the Walkers' stay was short. In 1887, the AA informed Moses and Welday that they were no longer "welcome." Four years later, the AA folded (as did the 1-year Players League), with only the NL remaining.

But what about the minors? In 1887, the integrated **International League** featured a few black stars who made quite a name for themselves. Fowler played infield for the Binghamton Crickets, P **Harry Stovey** and Moses Walker joined the Newark Little Giants, and IF **Frank Grant** starred for the Buffalo Bisons. Of those listed, Grant was considered the best – and possibly most popular of all - even among white players and fans. Not to be left out, 16-year old IF/OF **Sol White** batted .305 for Wheeling (West Virginia) in the **Ohio League**. In the spring of 1887, blacks tried to form their own minor league circuit (**National Colored Base Ball League**) but it folded after 2 weeks. Despite their skill and popularity, the number of black players in the minors dwindled quickly, with Fleet Walker ending up as the last black to play in the IL in 1889.

The life of the 1880s professional athlete was markedly different. There were no players' unions, no agents, no planes, and no health insurance. If one suffered an injury, he had but 2 choices: play hurt to receive pay or look elsewhere for another team. Travel was by train or horse and carriage; busses and cars came later. Racial tensions aside, games could get violent: bats were used as weapons; unruly mobs hopped fences to chase an opponent or physically threaten the umpire. And, if things got out of hand, police were known to enter the field with pistols raised.

But black players like Bud Fowler or Fleet Walker also had to contend with teammates threatening to boycott or quit if he joined their team, or an opposing pitcher intentionally throwing at his head, or a base runner sliding spikes-high into his legs while he covered a base. Despite these conditions, their love for the game kept them playing. And once the summer season ended, many extended their careers by traveling to California, the southern US, the Dominican, Cuba, or Mexico to play winter ball.

Noteworthy events and dates

1883:

8/10: Chicago White Stockings beat **Toledo Blue Stockings** of Northwestern League 7-6 in an exhibition game. Game included controversy: Since Toledo squad included C Moses (aka "Fleet") Walker, Chicago manager Cap Anson would not allow the club to take the field. Walker played anyway – replacing a Blue Stockings catcher late in the game.

Anson and the club faced an almost identical situation three years later.

1886: **Southern League Colored Base Ballists** lasted 1 year.

League included teams from Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

1887:

7/14: (1) Anson and the Chicago Colts again **refused to play an exhibition game** with the Newark Little Giants of the International League. Newark squad included 2 black players – Moses Fleetwood Walker (again), and P **George Stovey**.

(2) As reported in a newspaper – International League owners formally adopted **NL's unwritten code** to not tender any new contracts to blacks.

The **National Colored Base Ball League (NCBBL)** formed.

Winter of 1887-88 – clause in NL constitution limited number of blacks per team.

1889: **Middle States Base Ball League** included the Cuban Giants.

Middle States League changed to **Eastern Interstate League** a year later.

1891: The **NY Gorhams (NCBBL)** reportedly won 41 in a row. Club included Frank Grant, Sol White, and Clarence Williams.

1895: First year for the **Cuban Giants**. Club was based out of Trenton, NJ.

The integrated **Page Fence Giants**, an independent team from Adrian, Michigan, visited 112 towns in 7 states. Giants' record: 118-36-2.

Note: While the US grew in size (Nebraska in 1867, Colorado in 1876, North and South Dakota in 1889), and the US population jumped 25% (from 50 million to 63 million), the number of blacks playing organized baseball (covering major and minor leagues) steadily dropped from 20 in the late 1880s to being essentially phased out by 1896.

Four major factors that blocked blacks from playing:

- **On the field:** Teammates and opposing teams refused to play if a black player suited up. With few exceptions such as light-skinned Cubans (Jose Mendez and Dolph Luque) and American Indians (John Tortes "Chief" Meyers and Charles Albert "Chief" Bender), darker pigmented men did not enter major leagues until 1947.
- **Influential persons: Adrian "Cap" Anson**, player-manager of ML's Chicago White Stockings (forerunner to the Cubs) twice forbade his players from playing on the same ballfield with black players (1883 vs. Newark, and 7/14/1887 vs. Toledo).

- **Owner collusion: 1887:** The International League formally decided to not sign black players. National League owners met behind closed doors and made a similar “gentlemen’s agreement.”
- The Supreme Court’s famous **Plessy vs. Ferguson** (1896) decision put segregation (blacks and whites were “separate but equal”) into law.

Baseball was not the only sport shutting blacks out:

Football

Douglas “Fritz” Pollard (Akron Stars) and 8 other pro black players suited up between 1920-26, but only five, including **Joe Lillard** (Chicago Cardinals) continued to perform in the NFL until 1933. In the early 1930s, NFL owners made a private Gentlemen’s Agreement to neither sign nor draft a black player.

Fortunes for blacks changed in 1946 – a year before Jackie Robinson donned a Dodgers uniform, when the NFL’s Los Angeles Rams signed RB **Kenny Washington**, and E **Woody Strode** of the minor league Pacific Coast Football League.

Basketball

The all-black Harlem Globetrotters (based out of Chicago) and NY Rens competed against all-white pro teams, but only on rare occasions was a team integrated (The 1942 Jim White Chevrolets and the Chicago Studebakers of the National Basketball League).

The NBA finally integrated in 1950 when **Earl Lloyd** (Washington Capitols), former Harlem Globetrotter **Nat Clifton** (NY Knicks), and **Chuck Cooper** (Boston Celtics) joined the league. But growth was slow: teams had unofficial “quotas” of 2-3 blacks per team during the 1950s and 4 during the 1960s.

If you can’t join them, then start your own!

- Sites where the first Negro League teams set were in the northeast, Midwest, and the south (including Cuba). For extra pay, teams often traveled about (barnstorming) a region to challenge local squads.
- With few exceptions (Kansas City Monarchs and Philadelphia Stars), Negro League owners were black, and umpires were white. Some black owners like Gus Greenlee (Pittsburgh Crawfords) were involved in racketeering – opening up gambling parlors to offset any on-field losses.
- Stats and figures were not well kept, and numerous accounts of noteworthy plays or achievements never made print, but the lore of swift players (Cool Papa Bell), artful pitchers (Satchel Paige), and long, long HRs off the bat of catcher Josh Gibson started here.
- When the ML season ended, ML commissioner Kenesaw Landis gave Negro League clubs the go-ahead to rent empty major league ballparks. But he was also firmly against ML teams playing exhibition games against black teams. The reason: Negro league teams won more than they lost. Once the ML season ended, whites played black teams for money until commissioner Landis stepped in.
- More than 45,000 packed Chicago White Sox’ Comiskey Park to watch the annual Negro League All Star Game. Normal attendance at a Negro League *World Series* game drew approximately 2,000-4,000.

Other Negro League Pioneers (pre-1900)

P Harry Buckner: 17 year career; 3-2 vs. MLB; 44-35 record

1B/P/manager John Bud Fowler: Known to be the first black to play organized baseball in the minors. A successful batter, fielder, and pitcher, Fowler joined dozens of teams and tried to establish black baseball leagues.

2B Frank Grant: (Buffalo 1886-88; Cuban Giants, 1891; Hall of Fame 2006).
Considered best black player in the 19th century.

SS Grant Johnson: 18 years, 10 clubs; lifetime .310 BA

IF Bill Monroe (Chicago Unions) – played for 7 teams in his 14 years in Negro Leagues.

P James Robinson (the “Black Amos Rusie”): Career began in 1898

P George Stovey: (NY Gorhams, Newark, Cuban X Giants)

C Moses “Fleet” Walker: joined American Associations’ Toledo club in the 1880s.

C Clarence Williams (Cuban Giants, Cuban X Giants) 1887; 20-year career (8 teams); retired at age 47

IF/OF Sol White: Of his 15-year career in baseball, 6 were spent with the Philadelphia Giants and 5 with the Cuban X Giants. Hall of Fame 2006.

P Billy Whyte (1887, Cuban Giants) went vs. ML teams.

1896-1900

- Chicago: **Chicago Unions** turned pro in 1896; the (Chicago) **Columbia Giants** followed in 1899. Both clubs played on West Division Street. Leland Giants (later **Chicago Giants**). A dominant team early 1900s.
- **Leland Giants** were the only black team in the 6-team **Chicago Baseball League**. Other teams included the Anson Colts, Logan Squares, Bunthers, Milwaukee, and West Ends.

1899: Page Fence Giants moved from Michigan and became **Chicago Columbia Giants**.

1901 - 1910

“I remember one game I got five hits and stole five bases, but none of it was written down because they forgot to bring the scorebook to the game that day.” **Cool Papa Bell**

1901: The team to beat (1901-1910), Chicago’s **Leland Giants**. Owner/Manager: Frank Leland. Club was made up of players from the Chicago Unions and Chicago Columbia Giants.

1902: Sol White’s Philadelphia Giants went 134-21-3.

P Andrew “Rube” Foster: Hall of Fame: 1981. Foster was Leland Pitcher/manager through 1910. Foster later formed his own team (Chicago American Giants) and established the Negro National League (1920).

1903: Frank Grant joined Sol Whites Philadelphia Giants.

P Walter Ball (1903) – spent most of his 17 years in Chicago.

1904: OF **John Preston “Pete” Hill**. Hall of Fame: 2006.

Hill batted .511 (102 AB) in 1910 and hit .327 vs. ML pitching (37G).

Most of Hill’s 21-year career was spent in Chicago (Lelands and Chicago American Giants).

1906: SS **John Henry “Pop” Lloyd** (“Black Honus Wagner”). Hall of Fame: 1977.

Lloyd retired after 1932 season. Career: .338 BA; “Pop” hit .313 vs. ML pitching.

C

Bruce Petway (Chicago Lelands), a med student, retired in 1925.

IF Bill Francis (Wilmington) – 20 years (12 clubs) in the Negro Leagues,

P Big Bill Gatewood: 17 years 12 clubs

Two new leagues formed:

International League of Independent Pro Baseball Clubs

National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of USA and Cuba

1907: P **Smokey Joe (Cyclone Joe) Williams**. Twenty Five years as player; 9 as player coach.

Hall of Fame 1999. “Smokey Joe” `142-88; 10 teams in 25 years.

P/IF **Jose Mendez**. Hall of Fame 2006; (Almendares/Cuba) retired after 18 years; record: 136-58.

3B Candy Jim Taylor, 17 teams in 28 years (1907-42)

P Steel Arm Johnny Taylor; 9 teams in 11 years; 5’ 5” 168

P Frank Duncan. Joined Chicago Lelands in 1910.

Sol White’s *History of Colored Base Ball* was published.

Led by P Rube Foster (the “Black Christy Matthewson”), the 1907 **Chicago Lelands** went 110-10.

Foster himself out-pitched Rube Waddell of MLB’s Philadelphia Athletics, 5-2.

1909: P/1B **Ben Taylor**: 13 teams, 20 years in Negro Leagues. Career: .332; Hall of Fame 2006.

P Charles Dougherty (Chicago Lelands).

P William Dizzy Dismukes 17 year career (9 with Indianapolis ABCs);

Dismukes pitched a 4-hitter vs. MLB

P/OF Spottswood Poles; 14 years; .309 BA; mostly NY Lincoln Giants

P Charles Pat Dougherty; 7 years, 4 teams

P Bill Lindsay; 30-11; 6 years, 3 teams.

Known as the “Kansas Cyclone,” Lindsay died at the age of 23 of uremic poisoning.

International League of Colored Baseball Clubs began.

1910: C **Louis Santop** spent 17 years in Negro Leagues. Career: .326; Hall of Fame 2006.

P Frank Wickware (Chicago Lelands); aka “The Red Ant,” played for 15 teams in 12 years

2B Elwood “Bingo” DeMoss (Kansas City Giants); spent 11 of 17 years with CAG

1911 - 1920

1911: California Winter League became 1st *integrated pro* league in the 20th century.

Rube Foster and his (Chicago) Leland Giants were the first Negro League team to head west to play some of the better white teams.

After a falling out with Frank Leland, Rube Foster left and started the **Chicago American Giants**. Once the **Chicago White Sox** moved into their new Comiskey Park location, Chicago American Giants moved into the White Sox' former site at 39th and Wentworth (just south of Comiskey).

Meanwhile, Frank Leland formed yet another team, also called the Leland Giants. The road team **Chicago Giants** began play. Club did not own nor rent a stadium.

IF Harry Bauchman (Minnesota)

P Dick Redding (Philadelphia) spent 21 years in the Negro Leagues.

OF Jimmie Lyons: 15 teams in 14 years

1912: James Wilkinson (Hall of Fame, 2006), later owner of the 1920 Kansas City Monarchs, assembled his multi-racial **All Nations** team. Squad included white, black, Asian, and native American players. Wilkinson's Monarchs won 4 Negro League NL pennants and finished 1st 7 times in the Negro AL.

OF **Cristobal Torrienti** (Havana, Cuba). Hall of Fame 2006. Career average: .345
Chicago American Giants 1919-1925. Torrienti was also scouted by the NY Giants.

Chicago's lesser-known championship team: While the NL's **Cubs** finished in 3rd, 12G behind the NY Giants, and the AL's White Sox ended 4th, 28G behind the Boston Red Sox, The **Chicago American Giants (33-19)** finished in 1st behind P Rube Foster (6-2), Pete Hill (.399) and Jesse Barber (.369).

1913: 2/26: Negro League pioneer **Bud Fowler** passed away at 54

1914: P Dick Whitworth: 5 teams 10 years; 73-37; mostly with Chicago American Giants

10/22: Smoky Joe Williams and the NY Lincoln Giants beat the NL's Philadelphia Phillies 1-0.
Williams allowed 3 hits and struck out 10 batters.

1915: OF **Oscar Charleston** (aka "the Black Ty Cobb"; Indianapolis ABCs): 27-year career.
Charleston entered the Hall of Fame 1976.

P John Donaldson: 8 years, 6 clubs

1916: IF Dave Malarcher (Indianapolis ABCs and later Chicago American Giants).

Owner **Alejandro "Alex" Pompez** (Hall of Fame as a Pioneer, 2006), a Cuban-American, formed the **NY Cuban Stars** (later NY Cubans). With wealth gained from illegal lotteries, Pompez was frequently in trouble with gangsters (Dutch Schultz) and the law. After testifying against Tammany Hall's corrupt politicians, Pompez' connections with Latin players aided their entry into both the Negro Leagues and later MLB (see 1948).

1917: Floyd "Jelly" Gardner. Played for the American Giants 1920-29.

P Phil Cockrell (career 102-72): 18 year career. Went 5-1 and 0.89 ERA vs ML teams.

1B Edgar Wesley: 5 teams in 9 years; career BA: .318

1918: First year for the famed **Homestead Grays** (Homestead, PA). What began as a semi-professional, independent company team (members were steelworkers), the Grays went to win 3 Negro League World Series titles and 9 pennants in its 28 year span.

OF **Cumberland Posey** (Hall of Fame as a Pioneer, 2006) managed the Grays from 1921-35. Posey, a man of letters (degreed in both engineering and pharmacy) was also a noteworthy basketball player and was enshrined in Naismith's Basketball's Hall of Fame in 2016.

3B **William Julius** (aka **Judy**) **Johnson** (Hilldale; Hall of Fame: 1975)
SS Bobby Williams (Chicago American Giants).

1919: IF John Beckwith and P Dave Brown. Both played for the Chicago American Giants. Brown (career: 78-33) was considered one of the best lefty pitchers in the game.

1920: February 13: Eight clubs met at a local YMCA to form the **Negro National League**. Clubs included Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants (road team), Cuban Stars, Dayton Marcos, Detroit Stars, Indianapolis ABCs, Kansas City Monarchs, and St. Louis Giants. The Birmingham Black Barons and Memphis Red Sox joined in 1927.

Top NNL teams:

Chicago American Giants won pennants in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1926 and 1927.

Kansas City Monarchs won pennants in 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1929.

St. Louis Stars won pennants in 1928, 1930, and 1931.

P **Charles Wilbur "Bullett" Rogan** (Kansas City Monarchs; Hall of Fame: 1998).

C **James Raleigh "Biz" Mackey** (Indianapolis). Hall of Fame: 2006.

P **Andy Cooper** (Detroit Stars). Career record: 127-78. Hall of Fame: 2006.

Cooper retired in 1939 at the age of 43; Mackey retired in 1947 at the age of 49.

C Frank Duncan: 21-year career began with the Chicago Giants (road team).

P Jack Marshall (Chicago American Giants)

P Reuben Curry (Kansas City Monarchs and later the Hilldale Club).

Negro Southern League also formed. Not as successful nor as organized as the Negro NL.

1921 - 1930

1921: IF George Scales (St. Louis Giants). Scales played 26 years; career BA: .321. American Giants beat American League All Stars 5 games to 2.

1922: P/IF/OF **Martin Dihigo** (aka "El Maestro"; Havana; Hall of Fame 1977)
OF **James "Cool Papa" Bell** (aka "The Black Ty Cobb;" career: .320; Hall of Fame 1974),
IF **Jud Wilson** (Birmingham Black Barons). Retired at 49, career BA: .359. Hall of Fame: 2006.

1923: Eastern Colored League formed.

Teams included the Hilldale Club, Bacharach (NJ) Giants, Lincoln (NY) Giants, Washington Potomacs, Baltimore Black Sox, Cuban Stars, Harrisburg Giants, and Brooklyn Royal Giants. The ECL folded in 1928.

First Year: OF **Norman "Turkey" Stearnes**. Career: .342. Hall of Fame 2000.

P **Willie Foster** (Rube Foster's ½ brother); went 2-0 vs. ML players. Hall of Fame: 1996.

IF/OF **George "Mule" Suttles**: 19 years in Negro League (Career: .317) ; Hall of Fame: 2006.

The team to beat was the **Santa Clara Leopards**

1924: SS **Willie Wells**, aka “El Diablo” (St. Louis Stars; Hall of Fame 1977).

Truce was established between Negro NL and Eastern Colored League.

Of the two, the ECL was considered the more efficient league but was also accused of raiding NNL’s top stars. The latter was accused of raiding the NNL of top stars.

(P) Dave Brown jumped from Chicago American Giants to NY Lincoln Giants of Eastern League

1926: OF Ted Page (Indianapolis ABCs). Career blossomed in 1929.

The 7-team **Negro Southern League** began.

Leroy Satchel Paige (Chattanooga White Sox; Hall of Fame 1971).

Negro League’s premier pitcher. Paige had 4 different windups and a menu of pitches:

Bee Ball, Long Tom, Trouble Ball, Slow Ball, Bat Dodger, Midnight Rider, and Blooper pitch. Paige’s Hesitation Pitch was later banned by ML.

Paige, in his own words:

“**Ol’ Satch threw** a lot of things, but my natural stuff was always good enough. I don’t need any spit to help out.” (P333)

“Just take the ball and throw it where you want to. Throw strikes. Home plate don’t move.”

“If a man can beat you, walk him.” (P332).

1927: Negro World Series: Chicago American Giants beat the Bacharach Giants in 9 games (1 tie).

1928: P/C Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (Detroit Stars). Double Duty retired at 43 in 1946.

P Ted Trent (St. Louis Stars). Trent’s rookie record: 21-4.

OF Roy Parnell (Birmingham; later a solid OF for Philadelphia Stars)

The Eastern Colored League folded during the season.

The Hilldale Club beat Connie Mack’s Philadelphia Athletics.

1929: A team of Negro League All Stars (including Cool Papa Bell, Willie Foster Mule Suttles, Willie Wells) beat Major League All Stars (with future Hall of Famers Charlie Gehringer, Heinie Manush, and Harry Heilmann) 3 games to 2. Pitcher Willie Foster won 2 of the 3 games.

1930: **Andrew “Rube” Foster**, founder of Negro NL (1920), passed away.

C **Josh Gibson** (Homestead Grays; Hall of Fame 1972). Known as the “Babe Ruth” of the Negro Leagues, Gibson reportedly hit 55 HRs in 1933, and 69 in 1934; other reports claim Gibson averaged *70+ HRs per season* between 1931-34.

Gibson’s Hall of Fame plaque notes he hit close to 800 HRs in his 17-year career.

“**Josh Gibson** was, at the minimum, two Yogi Berras.” **Bill Veeck** (P 452)

Gus Greenlee purchased the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Known more for his philanthropy than illegal bootlegging and gambling operations, Greenlee lured several stars from other clubs, assigned Oscar Charleston as manager (who led the Crawfords to 3 pennants), helped erect Greenlee Field (solely made for Negro League baseball) and was founder of the Negro National League II (1933).

Using portable lights, Kansas City Monarchs became the 1st professional team to play night baseball

1931 - 1940

1931: First Year:

P/OF **Ray Brown** (Hall of Fame 2006). Career record: 125-47.

OF Jimmie Crutchfield (Indianapolis ABCs) – 13 years, 9 teams.

One team of note: **Homestead Grays**. Since they were unaffiliated with any league, the club played regional games against all comers – local, regional, white or black. Led by P Joe Williams, C Josh Gibson, and IF/OF Oscar Charleston-the Grays' record varies from 138-6 to 163-23.

Club included P Willie Foster and 3B Jud Wilson.

A five-panel member voted the Grays as the greatest team in NNL history.

Negro National League folded at season's end. Another one formed in 1933.

1932: Depression caused Cum Posey's 8-team **East-West League** to fold in June.

League lasted 2 months. Posey owned two of the 8 teams.

C Josh Gibson, IF Oscar Charleston, and 3B Jud Wilson joined the Pittsburgh Crawfords.

Chicago American Giants were now the **Cole's American Giants**. Club went 34-7.

1933: Founded by Gus Greenlee, **Negro National League II** began.

Teams included Greenlee's Pittsburgh Crawfords, the Homestead Grays, Philadelphia Stars, Baltimore Elite Giants, and the Detroit Stars.

First Year:

IF **Ray Dandridge** (Indianapolis ABCs); Hall of Fame: 1987.

1B **Walter "Buck" Leonard** (Brooklyn Royal Giants). Hall of Fame 1972.

3B Alex Radcliffe (Chicago American Giants; younger brother of Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe).

1934: First Year: P **Leon Day** (Birmingham Black Sox). Hall of Fame: 1995.

Over 30K turned out for the Negro League All Star Game.

Winning pitcher: Satchel Paige (Score: 1-0)

1935: Alex Pompez' **NY Cubans** joined the NNL.

First Year: P **Hilton Smith** (Kansas City Monarchs). Hall of Fame: 2001.

OF **Willard Brown** (Kansas City Monarchs). Hall of Fame: 2006.

Brown later joined St. Louis Browns (ML) in 1947 and was one of many black players who served during WW II.

1936: First Year: C Joe Greene (Chicago American Giants).

Abe and Effa Manley became owners of the Newark Eagles.

Effa took over sole ownership from 1946-48. Twenty-five years after her death, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame (2006)

1937: Negro American League was established. League lasted until 1962.

Teams included Chicago American Giants, Birmingham Black Barons, Cleveland Buckeyes, Indianapolis Clowns, Kansas City Monarchs, and Memphis Red Sox.

Homestead Grays were considered the team to beat.

Between 1937-48, club won 9 pennants and 3 World Series.

First Year: IF/OF John "Buck" O'Neill, C **Roy Campanella** (Washington Elite Giants).

Campanella signed on with MLB's Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948. Hall of Fame: 1969.

P Johnny Wright (Newark): 10 years, 5 teams, 43-24.

P Roy Partlow (Cincinnati): 10 years, 5 teams, 36-27.

Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo lured top Pittsburgh Crawfords (including Satchel Paige and Cool Papa Bell) to play for the Santo Domingo Stars.

1938: First Year: IF/OF **Monte Irvin** (Newark Eagles). Hall of Fame 1973.
Irvin's 8-year ML career began with NY Giants (1949).

1940: First Year: P Gentry Jessup (Birmingham Black Barons).
Chicago American Giants leased White Sox' Comiskey Park after their park burned down.

1941 - 1950

1941: WWII: ML Commissioner Kennesaw Landis stated clubs were free to use blacks, but none were called despite a shortage of "quality ballplayers in the majors."
Reporters claimed any tryout involving a black player was a sham.

First year: IF/OF Art Pennington (Chicago American Giants)
P Gready McKinnis (Birmingham Black Barons).

More than 50,000 attended the Negro League All Star Game at Chicago's Comiskey Park.

1942: First Year: OF **Larry Doby** (Newark Eagles).
Doby was the 1st black to play in American League (Cleveland). Hall of Fame: 1999.

OF Sam Jethroe (Cleveland Buckeyes). Jethroe later signed on with NL's Boston Braves.
Jethroe was voted NL Rookie of the Year (1950) and twice led the NL in stolen bases.

OF Hank Thompson (Kansas City Monarchs). Spent 8 of his 9 years with the NL's NY Giants.

Chicago Cubs' P **Hi Bithorn** became the **1st Puerto Rican player** to play in the majors.

Approximately 48K attended the Negro League All Star Game.
Note: Chicago White Sox' highest attendance in 1942 was 38,102.

1943: First Year: P Joe Black (Baltimore Elite Giants)
Over 51,000 witnessed Negro League All Star Game. Winning pitcher: Satchel Paige.
Note: Chicago White Sox' highest attendance in 1943 was 32,019.

1944: William Veeck allegedly planned to buy the Philadelphia Phillies and fill the roster with black players.

Over 46K attended Negro League All Star Game.
Note: Chicago White Sox' highest attendance in 1944 was 31,100.

1945: MLB Commissioner Landis died in November, 1944.
Landis' replacement, **Hap Chandler**, took office through July 15, 1951.

Chandler, the former US Senator and Governor of Kentucky, was primarily known for allowing and enforcing Brooklyn Dodgers' **Jackie Robinson** to play in the ML, and later suspending Brooklyn manager **Leo Durocher** for "conduct unbecoming of the game."

Multi-sport star **Jackie Robinson** suited up for the Kansas City Monarchs.

10/23: Robinson signs on with Brooklyn Dodgers and reports to the Montreal Royals.
Auspicious start: Robinson homered in his Royals debut (4 hits, 2 SB).

1946: IF Jim Gilliam (Baltimore Elite Giants). Gilliam joined the NL's Brooklyn Dodgers in 1953.

Two Negro All Star Games: 16K attended at DC's Griffith Stadium and 45K at Comiskey Park

Jorge Pasquel, wealthy founder of the **Mexican League** enticed several MLB and Negro League players to leave their current teams and head south of the border. Negro League players who left stated they were paid well and felt freed from the racial tensions that existed in the US.

1947: OF Luke Easter (Homestead Grays). Easter soon signed with AL's Cleveland Indians in 1949.

The Year the Line Was Finally Crossed...

"I do not care if half the league strikes. Those who do will encounter quick retribution. All will be suspended, and I do not care if it wrecks the National League for five years. This is the United States a of America and one citizen has as much right to play as another. The National League will go down the line with Robinson whatever the consequences."

National League President Ford Frick (P 143)

"Jackie, we've got no army. There's virtually nobody on our side...We will be in a tough position. We can win only if we can convince the world that I'm doing this because you're a great ball player, a fine gentleman."

Branch Rickey (P 355)

Robinson's opponents were many: Fifteen ML owners objected to Robinson's signing; at least 3 teams planned to boycott playing the Dodgers (Phillies, Cardinals, and Cubs). Opposing managers openly ridiculed Robinson whether he was at bat or in the field. Early on, fellow Dodger Dixie Walker led some teammates to sign a petition barring him from joining.

4/11: **Jackie Robinson** at 28 signed on to play 1B for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

4/15: **Brooklyn** beat Boston 5-3 (Hal Gregg). Crowd of 26,623 saw Jackie Robinson's 1st ML game. Robinson played 1B, got on base by an error, and scored one run.

Robinson was voted **Rookie of the Year** (.297 BA, 12 HRs and 29 stolen bases).

"Thinking about the things that happened, I don't know any other ball player who could have done what he did. To be able to hit with everybody yelling at him...To do what he did has got to be the most tremendous thing I've ever seen in sports."

SS Pee Wee Reese, Brooklyn (P 348)

"Every time I look at my pocketbook, I see Jackie Robinson." OF **Willie Mays (P 278)**

A few weeks later, Cleveland Indians signed **Larry Doby** from the Newark Eagles.

7/5: **Chicago** beat Cleveland 6-5. Indians OF Larry Doby, **AL's 1st black player**, struck out in his 1st ML at-bat. Doby's appearance came 11 weeks after Jackie Robinson began playing for NL's Brooklyn Dodgers.

7/6: **Cleveland** beat Chicago 5-1 (Al Gettel). Larry Doby went 1-4 - RBI single in the 3rd.

The St. Louis Browns were the 2nd AL team to integrate by adding **Hank Thompson** and **Willard Brown**

Josh Gibson passed away at 35 years old.

1948: Negro National League II ended.

P **Satchel Paige** was now a rookie with the Cleveland Indians of the ML.

What it meant to the black community when the ML signed Satchel Paige:

“...**he was no amateur but a star** – the biggest they knew – one who knew baseball like an old fox and could play against the finest the while league could find.”

Clarence Markham (P 269)

“**The Satchmo has been a baseball legend** for a long time, a Paul Bunyan in technicolor. More fabulous tales have been told of Satchel’s pitching ability than of any other pitcher.”

Tom Meany (P 289)

Aided by Alex Pompez, MLB’s **NY Giants** acquired NNL’s **NY Cubans** as a farm team.

7/26: **President Harry Truman** signed Executive Order #9981, permanently desegregating the military.

8/3: **Cleveland** beat Washington 5-3. Over 72,400 attended Paige’s 1st ML start (Paige began his ML career as a relief pitcher).

8/13: **Cleveland** beat Chicago 5-0. Overflow crowd at Comiskey Park (51,013) saw Negro League legend P **Satchel Paige** shut out the White Sox on a complete-game 5-hitter. All 5 Sox hits were singles.

8/20: **Cleveland** beat Chicago 1-0 (3-hitter by Satchel Paige). Game drew 78,382 - ML’s largest crowd to date for a *night game*.

Indians P **Bob Feller** traveled the US by air with his All Star squad that included Bob Lemon, Mickey Vernon, Phil Rizzuto, Charlie Keller and Stan Musial.

Feller’s team faced **Satchel Paige**’s All Star squad that featured Negro League stars Buck O’Neil, Hank Thompson, Barney Brown, and Howard Easterling

(Bill Francis, SABR, Summer 2019)

1949: More than 30 blacks now playing in the ML. Teams with most black players: Brooklyn and Cleveland. Monte Irvin and Thompson joined the NY Giants. The Brooklyn Dodgers added Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe

1950: Boston Braves added OF Sam Jethroe. Jethroe twice led the NL in stolen bases.

1951 - 1975

1951: Minnie Minoso (formerly NY Cubans) became the 1st black to join the Chicago White Sox.

1952: First Year: IF **Henry Aaron** (Indianapolis Clowns). Aaron joined ML’s **Milwaukee Braves** 2 years later.

1954: 5/14: In a landmark case (**Brown vs. Topeka (KS) Board of Education**), the US Supreme Court voted unanimously (9-0) that racial segregation in public schools violated the 14th Amendment.

1956: IF/OF Ozzie Virgil – ML’s 1st **player from the Dominican Republic**.

8/7: The Triple-A **Miami Marlins** beat Cleveland Jets 6-2. Winning pitcher: 50-year old Satchel Paige. Minor-league record of 51,000 fans filled Miami’s Orange Bowl to see Paige pitch. Paige pitched 7+ innings and added a 3-run 2B.

1957: Jackie Robinson retired at season's end.

1959: Boston Red Sox were the last ML team to integrate, adding 2B **Elijah "Pumpsie" Green** and P **Earl Wilson**.

1961: Emmett Ashford became ML's 1st black umpire.

1962: Hall of Fame: Jackie Robinson.
Negro American League folded.

1964: Civil Rights Act of 1964 became law. Act banned segregation in public schools, restaurants, and hotels; outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

1969: Hall of Fame: Roy Campanella

1971: "Special Negro League Committee" was added – selecting heralded players, most who never played and/or were never allowed in ML.
Committee's 1st player chosen: **Satchel Paige**, who pitched for a few ML teams before retiring.

"They said I was the greatest pitcher they ever saw...I couldn't understand why they couldn't give me no justice."
Satchel Paige (P 333)

"I was in Cooperstown the day Satchel Paige was inducted and I stayed awake almost all that night thinking about it. It's something you never had any dream you'd ever see. Like men walking on the moon. I always wanted to go up there to Cooperstown. You felt like you had a reason, because it's the home of baseball, but you didn't have a special reason. We never thought we'd get in the Hall of Fame. We thought the way we were playing was the way it was going to continue. I never had any dream it would come. But that night I felt like I was part of it at last."
Buck Leonard (P 245)

1972: Hall of Fame: Josh Gibson and Buck Leonard.

10/27: **Jackie Robinson** passed away at 53.

1973: Hall of Fame: Monte Irvin and Roberto Clemente (by special vote).
Clemente was 1st Latin American voted into the Hall.

1974: Hall of Fame: Cool Papa Bell

1975: Hall of Fame: Judy Johnson

4/8: **Cleveland** beat NY Yankees 5-3 (Gaylord Perry).

Frank Robinson became 1st black to manage in ML.

Inserting himself in the lineup as the DH, Robinson homered off Doc Medich in the 1st inning.

1997: Negro League Baseball Museum opened in Kansas City, Missouri.

A Few of the Many Negro League Teams:

Bacharach Giants (1916-29): John Henry Lloyd, Dick Redding, and Dick Lundy were 3 of the Giants' 7 managers. Club played home games at Bacharach Park (Atlantic City, NJ). Players included John Henry Lloyd, Arthur "Rats" Henderson, Dick Lundy, and Oliver Marcel. Club won 2 pennants.

Baltimore Elite Giants (1933-48). Club began as the Nashville Elite Giants. Candy Jim Taylor and Felton Snow were 2 of the Giants' many managers. Club played 6 years at Oriole Park and 9 years at Bugle Field. Stars included Roy Campanella, George Scales, Bill Byrd, Henry Kimbro, Jim Gilliam, and Andy Porter. Club won 1 pennant. [**Note:** Elite is pronounced *E-light*].

Birmingham (Alabama) Black Barons (1923-48): Winfield Welch was one of the Barons' many managers. Barons' home park: Rickwood Field. Stars included Mule Suttles, Satchel Paige, Dan Bankhead and Willie Mays. Barons won 3 pennants.

Chicago American Giants (1911-48): Managers included Rube Foster and Dave Malarcher. Club played most of their home games at Chicago White Sox' Comiskey Park. Top players: Cristobal Torriente, Turkey Stearnes, Pete Hill, Mule Suttles, Oscar Charleston, pitchers Dave Whitworth, Tom Williams, Willie Foster, and Willie Cornelius. Between 1920-27. CAG won 4 pennants and the 1927 Negro World Series.

Cleveland Buckeyes (1942-48): Managers included Parnell Woods and Quincy Troupe. Home games were played at Cleveland Indians' League Park. Stars included Sam Jethroe, Archie Ware, Duke Cleveland and Eugene Bremer. Buckeyes won 2 pennants and 1 Negro World Series.

Habana (various Cuban leagues; 1899-1928): First manager was Alberto Azoy (1899-1905). Club played home games at Almendares Park I and II. Negro League stars included Pete Hill, Jud Wilson and John Henry Lloyd; pitchers Jose Acosta and Adolpho Luque played in the ML.
Club won 10 pennants.

Hilldale Club (1917-32). Managers included Bill Francis, Frank Warfield, and Judy Johnson. Club's home games were played at Hilldale Park (Darby, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia). Stars included Oscar Charleston, Judy Johnson, Biz Mackey, Louis Santop, pitchers Phil Cockrell and James "Nip" Winters. Cockrell went 5-1 vs. ML players; the 6'5" Winters went 3-0.

Homestead Grays (1918-1948). Managers: Cum Posey (1922-32) and Vic Harris (1936-48). Club played home games at Pittsburgh Pirates' Forbes Field or Washington Senators' Griffith Stadium in Washington, DC. Major stars included C Josh Gibson, 1B Buck Leonard, OF Cool Papa Bell, and mgr./OF Vic Harris.

Kansas City Monarchs (1920-48). Managers included Jose Mendez, Bullet Rogan, Andy Cooper, Frank Duncan, and Buck O'Neill. Majority of home games were played at Muehlebach Stadium (KC) – later home of the Kansas City A's and Kansas City Royals. Stars included Buck O'Neill, Bullet Rogan, Hilton Smith, Satchel Paige, Sam Jethroe, Hank Thompson, Willard Brown, Gene Baker, Elston Howard, and later Ernie Banks.
From 1923-46, Monarchs won 9 pennants and 2 World Series.

Memphis Red Sox (1923-48): Ted Radcliffe and Larry Brown were 2 of the Red Sox' 10 managers. Home games were played at Martin Park. Red Sox were led by mgr./P Carl Glass, Neil Robinson, Willie Wells, and Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe. Red Sox won 1 pennant.

Newark Eagles (1935-48): Principle managers: Dick Lundy and Biz Mackay. Club played home games at Ruppert Stadium. Stars included Leon Day, Monte Irvin, Willie Wells, Mule Suttles, Max Manning, and Larry Doby. Club won 1 pennant (1946) and the World Series that followed.

NY Cubans (1933-48): Cubans were owned by Alex Pompey and managed by Martin Dihigo and Jose Maria Fernandez. Team played their home games at Dychman Oval, Yankees Stadium (1941-43) and at NY Giants' famed Polo Grounds (1944-48). Stars: P Dave Barnhill, Silvio Garcia, and Minnie Minoso, who later starred for the Chicago White Sox. Club won 1 pennant and the 1947 World Series.

Philadelphia Stars (1933-48): Managers included Webster McDonald, Jud Wilson, and Goose Curry. Majority of games were played at Penmar Park (Philadelphia, PA). Stars included Jud Wilson, Henry McHenry, Gene Benson, Frank Austin, and Harry "Suitcase" Simpson (Simpson played for 5 ML teams). Stars won 1 pennant.

Pittsburgh Crawfords (1931-40): Club was originally called Pittsburgh Crawford Giants and the Toledo Crawfords in 1939. Oscar Charleston managed the club for 9 years. Stars were many: Oscar Charleston, Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Judy Johnson, Leroy Matlock, and Sam Bankhead. Crawfords won 3 pennants.

St. Louis Stars (1911-31): Dick Wallace managed the stars for 9 years; Candy Jim Taylor took over in 1923 and led club for 6 years. Name players included Cool Papa Bell, Willie Wells, Mule Suttles, and Logan Hensley. Stars won 3 pennants.

Much of the information above was provided by **seamheads.com** and **baseball-reference.com**.

Quotes: *Baseball's Greatest Quotations*, Paul Dickson

Jackie's Rookie Season	Claire Smith (Baseball Hall of Fame, Vol 41, Winter 2019)
Only the Ball Was White	Robert Peterson
Budfowlerbiographies.net	Brian McKenna (SABR)
May the Best Man Win – the Black Ball Championships 1866-1923	Todd Peterson (SABR Journal, Spring 2013)
Hothead, How the Oscar Charleston Myth Began	Jeremy Beer (SABR Journal, Spring 2017)
Why was baseball legend Oscar Charleston forgotten?	Jeremy Beer (SABR, March 2020)
Frank Grant	Brian McKenna (SABR)
Blacks in 19th Century Organized Baseball	Merl F. Kleinknecht (SABR Research Journals Archive)
Baseball's Forgotten Black Heroes	Bill Leibforth
Biographical Encyclopedia of Negro Baseball leagues	James Riley
Shades of Glory	Lawrence D Hogan
We Are The Ship - Story of Negro League Baseball	Kadir Nelson
The Homestead Grays: The Greatest Baseball Team of All Time	Charlie Fouche' (SABR, 2018 National Pastime)
Negro League Baseball Leagues, 1867-1955 A Photographic History	Phil Dixon
Green Cathedrals (5th Edition) The Ultimate Celebration of All Major League and Negro League Ballparks	Philip J. Lowry (SABR)

Hall of Fame's Memories and Dreams (Vol 42, #2) Issue focuses on the Negro Leagues' Hall of Fame, includes articles on early pioneers, Satchel Paige, Rube Foster, Buck O'Neill, the NL's Baltimore Giants, and a heart-felt intro by HOF Joe Morgan (see below).

There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace. Narrated by James Earl Jones, the documentary included archival footage of Negro teams traveling America's back roads and interviews with some of the League's biggest and well-known stars.

42, starred Chadwick Boseman as Jackie Robinson, Nicole Beharie as his wife, Harrison Ford as Branch Rickey, and Lucas Black as Pee Wee Reese. The Hollywood film depicted the early baseball life of Jackie Robinson (42 was the number Robinson wore on his jersey).

Bingo Long's Traveling All Stars and Motor Kings. Premiered in 1976, movie featured Richard Prior, Billy Dee Williams (as a Negro League star pitcher) and James Earl Jones as his battery mate.

" Joe, don't ever feel guilty. I got all I wanted out of this game, and all those guys who played in the Negro Leagues did too. The only reason we wanted to play in the major leagues was to show people that we were as good or better. We just loved the game."

Buck O'Neill to Joe Morgan, who "felt awkward" that he had a chance to play in the majors while a host of Negro League stars didn't.

(Hall of Fame Memories and Dreams, Vol 42, No 2, p 2).

© 2020 Brian Aldridge

Every effort has been made by the author and publisher to ensure that the information contained in this book was correct as of press time. The author and publisher hereby disclaim and do not assume liability for any injury, loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors or omissions, regardless of whether any errors or omissions result from negligence, accident, or any other cause. Readers are encouraged to verify any information contained in this book prior to taking any action on the information.

For rights and permissions, please contact:

Brian Aldridge 520 Crest Wheaton, IL aldridgebrian@sbcglobal.net