

Pine Tar Baseball  
Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide Introduction

Welcome, and thank you for purchasing the Pine Tar Baseball Negro Leagues Great Team Set. We are very proud to offer it to you. The purpose of this guide is to offer some information about Negro Leagues baseball in general, and about each team in particular, to enhance your enjoyment.

We constructed the set using research based primarily upon these sources:

Seamheads.com

The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues: The Other Half of Baseball History, by John Holway

The Biographical Encyclopedia of Negro League Baseball, by James Riley

The Baseball Book, Volume 2, by Larry Lester

The years in which these teams played ball covers 1910-1947. Teams were selected based primarily upon the endorsement of Negro Leagues historians and also the availability of more complete statistics and box scores. While the search for more box scores is ongoing, of course, we believe that these twelve teams are twelve of the fifteen or so finest teams in Negro Leagues history. These are the heavy hitters.

One more word about statistics. It became fashionable, indeed axiomatic, over the latter decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to say that due to the lack of statistics, we really don't have much knowledge of the Negro Leagues except what the players, writers, and fans have told us. Thanks to the wonderful work of the people who make important contributions to resources like Seamheads.com, and others, we must emphatically state that is no longer the case. There is wonderful, and complete data about the Negro Leagues, and it is improving steadily. We know a great deal about the players, the teams, and the way the game was played.

As you enjoy the cards in this set, whether for tournaments, seasons, or solitary games, it is important to remember that Negro Leagues baseball was unique. The first thing that you may notice is that the roster sizes tended to be smaller than their Major League counterparts. This was simply due to the fact that owners operated on smaller budgets. Therefore, it would not be uncommon to see teams in the leagues during these years with rosters of 14 to 17 players. Many players—indeed, many in this set—were two-way players, meaning that they primarily were position players, but also occasionally pitched. Alternatively, they may have primarily been pitchers, but did play as position players from time to time. It will be helpful, therefore, for you to carefully review the cards so that you get a sense of how the players on each team were used. Also, please note that if a pitcher was used frequently as a pinch hitter, we have indicated that on his card as well.

We mentioned earlier in this document that the years 1910 to 1947 are covered in this set. Just as in the Major Leagues, the Negro Leagues had a deadball period that ended around 1920, and the game gradually changed to become more like what we would recognize today in the years that followed. However, unlike the Major Leagues, some elements of the deadball period remained common practice in the Negro Leagues. You will see this reflected in the cards in this set. Speed was a priority for all of these teams, and "first run strategies" such as stealing, the hit and run, bunting, and certainly taking the

extra base were cornerstones of Negro Leagues offenses. This was true even for teams like the St. Louis Stars, who played in cozy, home run friendly ballparks.

With most teams carrying, at most, six men who pitched during this time period, the use of relief pitching was very different than we see today. Complete games were the expectation, and staff “aces” on great teams such as these delivered them often. Further, when they weren’t starting games, they were expected to be ready to relieve a starter who might not be doing well on that particular day. Sometimes these relief appearances would span many innings.

The Negro Leagues schedule was one that accommodated using pitchers in this way. League games were often clustered around weekends, with weekdays used for travel and/or exhibition games. Doubleheaders on weekends were common. So, as you look at the teams in the set, pitching “rotations” of three, and sometimes even two, pitchers were commonplace.

Finally, a note about the teams that we selected. It was not our intention to load up the set with many teams containing many of the same players. We have worked diligently to reflect the excellence that was Negro Leagues baseball across these decades. Still, there will be some duplication simply because, just as in MLB, winning seems to have followed these players wherever they went.

The guide that follows gives you some brief information about these teams, including their season’s performance, how historians have viewed the team, their manager, their rosters, the batting order that they tended to use, and the reasons they may or may not succeed on your tabletop against their peers. There is also room for notes on each page for you to use to keep track of information as well.

Simulations are best defined as “a representation of reality.” Ultimately, of course, beyond having fun, we hope that this simulation helps you to learn something about these teams and players, and the amazing game that they played. We can’t wait to hear from you about how these teams fare in competition. Enjoy!

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1910 Chicago Lelands

Ranked #9 All Time by Jim Riley, Former President, Society for American Baseball Research and Former Director of Research for the Negro Leagues Museum in Kansas City.

Ranked #6 by Dick Clark, Former Co-Chairman, SABR's Negro League Committee and Co-Editor of The Negro Leagues Book, Volume I

1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Western Independent Clubs

Manager: Rube Foster

Roster (14):

Frank Wickware  
Charles Dougherty  
Rube Foster  
Bill Lindsay  
Bruce Petway  
Pete Booker  
Grant Johnson  
Wesley Pryor  
John Henry Lloyd  
Frank Duncan  
Pete Hill  
Andrew Payne  
Sam Strothers  
Fred Hutchinson

Batting order:

Duncan  
Hill  
Lloyd  
Johnson  
Payne  
Booker  
Pryor  
Petway  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Wickware and Dougherty dominate their starts, and a thin staff figures out how to keep the team in games while this speedy offense drives defenses crazy.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Wickware and Dougherty prove to be mortal, and the third spot in the rotation gets hammered.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1917 Chicago American Giants  
Ranked #14 All Time by Jim Riley  
Ranked #5 All Time by Dick Clark  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Western Independent Clubs  
Manager: Rube Foster

Roster (15):

Dick Redding  
Tom Williams  
Tom Johnson  
Dick Whitworth  
Rube Foster  
Frank Wickware  
Bruce Petway  
Leroy Grant  
Bingo DeMoss  
Bill Francis  
John Henry Lloyd  
Frank Duncan  
Pete Hill  
Jesse Barber  
George Dixon

Batting order:

Duncan  
Francis  
Hill  
Lloyd  
Francis  
Grant  
DeMoss  
Petway  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Lots of pitching and defense will make this deadball team formidable in low scoring games.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Lloyd and Hill are on the downside of their careers, meaning that they may not score enough runs.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1924 Kansas City Monarchs  
Ranked #5 All Time by Jim Riley  
Ranked #4 All Time by Dick Clark  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Negro National League  
Negro League World Series Champions  
Manager: Jose Mendez

Roster (16):

Bullet Joe Rogan  
Bill Drake  
William Bell  
Jose Mendez  
Cliff Bell  
Jack Marshall  
Frank Duncan  
Lemuel Hawkins  
Newt Allen  
Newt Joseph  
Dobie Moore  
Heavy Johnson  
Dink Mothel  
Hurley McNair  
George Sweatt  
Yellowhorse Morris

Batting order:

Moore  
Allen  
Johnson  
McNair  
Joseph  
Mothel  
Hawkins  
Duncan  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Pitching and speed, and the greatness and versatility of Joe Rogan.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Most teams have pitching—does this one have enough to win a number of close games?

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1925 Hilldale Club

Ranked #4 All Time by Jim Riley

Ranked #1 All Time by Dick Clark

1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Eastern Colored League

Negro League World Series Champions

Manager: Frank Warfield

Roster (16):

Nip Winters

Reuben Curry

Phil Cockrell

Script Lee

Red Ryan

Bullet Campbell

Biz Mackey

George Carr

Frank Warfield

Judy Johnson

Jake Stephens

Clint Thomas

George Johnson

Otto Briggs

Namon Washington

Louis Santop

Batting order:

Briggs

Warfield

Carr

.J. Johnson

Thomas

Mackey

G. Johnson

Stephens

Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: This excellent team is deep in pitching and could shut down opponents, and score runs in a variety of ways.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: If they get behind, there may not be enough power to mount serious comebacks.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1928 St. Louis Stars

1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Negro National League  
Negro League World Series Champions

Manager: Jose Mendez

Roster (17):

Ted Trent  
John Williams  
Logan Hensley  
Luther McDonald  
Roosevelt Davis  
Richard Cannon  
Henry Williams  
Mule Suttles  
John Henry Russell  
Dewey Creacy  
Willie Wells  
Wilson Redus  
Cool Papa Bell  
Branch Russell  
Clarence Palm  
Willie Bobo  
Candy Jim Taylor

Batting order:

Bell  
B. Russell  
Wells  
Suttles  
Creacy  
Redus  
J. Russell  
Williams  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: This team scored so many runs in such a small ballpark with a lineup loaded with power.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: The pitchers other than Trent are unable to keep the team in games.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1929 Baltimore Black Sox  
 Ranked #13 All Time by Jim Riley  
 Ranked #11 All Time by Dick Clark  
 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the American Negro League  
 First Half Champions of the American Negro League  
 Second Half Champions of the American Negro League  
 Manager: Frank Warfield

Roster (19):

Laymon Yokely  
 Script Lee  
 Willis Flournoy  
 Red Ryan  
 Bun Hayes  
 Bill Force  
 Herb Smith  
 Bob Clarke  
 Jud Wilson  
 Frank Warfield  
 Oliver Marcell  
 Dick Lundy  
 Rap Dixon  
 Pete Washington  
 Jesse Hubbard  
 Buddy Burbage  
 Nip Winters  
 Duke Lattimore  
 Margaro Gamiz

Batting order:

Lundy  
 Warfield  
 Wilson  
 Dixon  
 Marcell  
 Hubbard  
 Clarke  
 Washington  
 Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: A balanced offensive attack puts up impressive numbers against opposing pitchers.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Wildness on the mound offsets the runs that are produced.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1931 Homestead Grays

Ranked #7 All Time by Jim Riley

Ranked #7 All Time by Dick Clark

Ranked #1 All Time by Phil Dixon, Negro Leagues Historian

Ranked #1 All Time by Charlie Fouche, Negro Leagues Historian

Manager: Cum Posey

Note: In real life, Satchel Paige pitched only one game for this team. His card is based upon stats versus all Negro Leagues competition in 1931. The decision of whether, and how much, to use him is up to you.

Roster (17):

George Britt

Willie Foster

Joe Williams

Lefty Williams

Roy S. Williams

Satchel Paige

Josh Gibson

Oscar Charleston

George Scales

Jud Wilson

Bill Evans

Vic Harris

Benny Jones

Ted Page

Ted Radcliffe

Jake Stephens

Ambrose Reid

Batting order:

Wilson

Page

Charleston

Gibson

Scales

Harris

Evans

Jones

Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: The offense buries opponents in the first few innings of games, taking the running game away from opponents seeking to take advantage of defensive lapses.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Defensive lapses at inopportune times force the pitchers to have to strike out too many batters.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1933 Chicago American Giants  
Ranked #11 All Time by Jim Riley  
Ranked #15 All Time by Dick Clark  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Negro National League  
Negro League World Series Champions  
Manager: Dave Malarcher

Roster (15):

Willie Cornelius  
Willie Foster  
Willie Powell  
Melvin Powell  
Joe Lillard  
Larry Brown  
Mule Suttles  
Jack Marshall  
Alex Radcliff  
Willie Wells  
Steel Arm Davis  
Turkey Stearnes  
Nat Rogers  
Quincy Troupe  
Andy Drake

Batting order:

Wells  
Davis  
Stearnes  
Rogers  
Suttles  
Radcliff  
Brown  
Marshall  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Their pitching will shut down opposing offenses and Turkey Stearnes will carry the offense.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: They won't score enough to keep up with stronger offenses in the group.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords

Ranked #1 All Time by Jim Riley

Ranked #3 All Time by Dick Clark

Champions of the Negro National League II

First Half Champions of the Negro National League II

Manager: Oscar Charleston

Roster (19):

Roosevelt Davis

Leroy Matlock

Spoon Carter

Bert Hunter

Bill Harvey

Sam Streeter

Harry Kincannon

William Bell

Josh Gibson

Oscar Charleston

Pat Patterson

Curtis Harris

Chester Williams

Sam Bankhead

Cool Papa Bell

Bill Perkins

Jimmie Crutchfield

Judy Johnson

Ted Bond

Batting order:

Bell

Crutchfield

Charleston

Gibson

Bankhead

Patterson

Perkins

Williams

Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Strong in every aspect of the game, if they get hot they have the potential to dominate the historically good competition.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Bell is kept off of the bases and teams with better pitching find a way to control or pitch around the sluggers on the team.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1942 Kansas City Monarchs  
Ranked #3 All Time by Jim Riley  
Ranked #8 All Time by Dick Clark  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Negro American League  
Negro League World Series Champions  
Manager: Frank Duncan

Roster (16):

Hilton Smith  
Satchel Paige  
Booker McDaniel  
Jack Matchett  
Connie Johnson  
Jim LaMarque  
Joe Greene  
Buck O'Neil  
Bonnie Serrell  
Newt Allen  
Jesse Williams  
Willie Simms  
Ted Strong  
Herb Souell  
Frank Duncan  
Johnnie Dawson

Batting order:

Simms  
Souell  
Strong  
Serrell  
Greene  
O'Neil  
Allen  
Williams  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Strong top of the rotation pitching control opposing offenses with strong fundamentals and defensive range.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: Runs might be difficult for the offense to produce against great pitching.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1946 Newark Eagles

Ranked #10 All Time by Jim Riley

Ranked #12 All Time by Dick Clark

First Half Champions of the Negro National League II

Second Half Champions of the Negro National League II

Champions of the Negro National League II

Negro League World Series Champions

Manager: Biz Mackey

Roster (18):

Leon Day

Max Manning

Rufus Lewis

Leniel Hooker

Cecil Cole

Cotton Williams

Leon Ruffin

Lennie Pearson

Larry Doby

Pat Patterson

Monte Irvin

Johnny Davis

Jimmy Wilkes

Bob Harvey

Charlie Parks

Clarence Israel

Oscar Givens

Benny Felder

Batting order:

Wilkes

Irvin

Doby

Harvey

Pearson

Davis

Patterson

Ruffin

Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Doby and Irvin will lead a very productive offense, and Day and Manning dominate the top two starters on the other teams.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: The pitching may not be deep enough to sustain a run through the schedule against awesome competition.

Negro Leagues Great Teams Set  
Team Guide

1947 NY Cubans  
Champions of the Negro National League II  
Negro League World Series Champions  
Manager: Jose Maria Fernandez

Roster (16):

Patricio Scantlebury  
Lino Dinoso  
Luis Tiant  
Barney Morris  
Martin Crue  
Dave Barnhill  
Lou Louden  
Lorenzo Cabrera  
Fernando Diaz Pedroso  
Minnie Minoso  
Silvio Garcia  
Cleveland Clark  
Pedro Pages  
Claro Duany  
Rabbit Martinez  
Ray Noble

Batting order:

Minoso  
Pages  
Cabrera  
Pedroso  
Duany  
Clark  
Louden  
Garcia  
Pitcher

Why they will win your league/tournament: Minoso could carry the offense and the pitchers have the potential to frustrate excellent offensive attacks.

Why they won't win your league/tournament: The pitchers don't throw strikes and the offense has to come from too far behind to be able to catch up.

