

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

*"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"*

Editor, Larry Lester

June, 2008

## In the News

### 2008 Jerry Malloy Conference

This year's conference will featured several former players, host an educational workshop and have us as guests of the Schaumburg Flyers of the Independent League.

To honor two legendary teams from the Negro Leagues, the Flyers and the Kansas City T-Bones will wear replica uniforms of the Kansas City Monarchs and the Chicago American Giants when the teams take Alexian Field on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, the first 2,500 fans to arrive on Negro League Legend Night will receive a U.S. Army scratch card and have a chance to win one of the 100 commemorative Minnie Minoso statues produced by Hartland.

Minoso will throw out the first pitch and is expected to sign a few statues for winning ticket holders.

**Also note:** The winner of the \$500 scholarship from the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League was Yu Meng Qi. A student at Granby High School in Norfolk, Virginia, Yu Meng graduated in June with a grade point average of 3.96 in the school's rigorous International Baccalaureate Program. She will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall. Congratulations to Yu.

### Black Ball Journal

McFarland & Company is gearing up to publish the first bi-annual **Black Ball**, a peer-reviewed journal with emphasis on original research. The journal will promote the study of Negro Leagues and pre-Negro Leagues baseball, with a focus on their role in the popular black culture.

Black Ball welcomes articles on all subjects related to black baseball, major or minor leagues, barnstorming, segregation and integration, the business of black baseball, the teams and the players. A wide range of disciplinary and academic perspectives are welcome.

The first edition will be available at the 2008 Jerry Malloy Conference in Willowbrook (Chicago), Illinois.

**The Deadline for the second edition is August 1st.**

Submit your papers to Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Kent State University, 6000 Frank Road, North Canton, OH 44720 or email: [LHeaphy@kent.edu](mailto:LHeaphy@kent.edu)

### Josh Gibson Honored

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Josh Gibson Foundation will

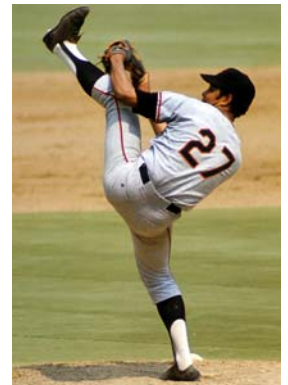


have its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Negro League "**Remembering the History**," a black-tie gala and silent auction, in Pittsburgh, PA, at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center & Sports Museum. ESPN SportsCenter Anchor, Jay Harris will be master of ceremonies.

The scheduled keynote speaker is **Juan Marichal**, a 1983 Hall of Fame inductee.

The Josh Gibson Foundation is a private 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation which was established in 1994. It is the goal of the Foundation to establish a history and learning center in Homestead, PA to reach out to the families and youth of the community on which Josh Gibson left his mark. They can be reached at:

<http://www.joshgibson.org/> for more information.



### White Sox to Host Tribute to East-West All-Star Game

On Satchel Paige's and Double Duty Radcliffe's birthday, July 7, the Chicago White Sox will host the first-ever Double Duty Classic, at U.S. Cellular Field with inner city high school players from across the Midwest participating in an All-Star showcase.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the first East-West All-Star game, played annual at Comiskey Park. Double Duty was voted MVP of the 1943 classic.

The Chicago White Sox Charities will make a \$10,000 donation to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

## Research Finds:

Visit Gary Bedingfield's **Baseball in Wartime** website at: [www.baseballinwartime.com/negro.htm](http://www.baseballinwartime.com/negro.htm) to see a list of Negro Leaguers who served the Armed Forces in World War II. As A.B. "Happy" Chandler once said, "If they can fight and die on Okinawa and Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, they can play baseball in America." Review the site. If you know of any additions to his listing contact Bedingfield at: [garybed@gmail.com](mailto:garybed@gmail.com).



### If Mount Rushmore was for Athletes . . . . .

Are you in need of a class project? Listed below are the results of poll taken by members of the Negro

Leagues Committee for their top four choices for stone greatness; Negro Leaguers, Athletes and Major Leaguers.

#### Negro Leaguers:

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- 1) Satchel Paige
  - 2) Josh Gibson
  - 3) Rube Foster
  - 4) Oscar Charleston
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#### Athletes:

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- 1) Muhammad Ali
  - 2) Babe Ruth
  - 3) Jim Thorpe
  - 4) Jesse Owens
- 

#### Major Leaguers:

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- 1) Babe Ruth
  - 2) Willie Mays
  - 3) Jackie Robinson
  - 4) CyYoung
- 



812 Huron Rd E #719  
Cleveland OH 44115  
[info@sabr.org](mailto:info@sabr.org)

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## Research Requests:

**COLLEGIATE COLORED STARS:** Rick Benner, chairman of the Collegiate Baseball Committee, is undertaking an exciting new project that crosses the boundaries of both of our committees. Rick has started matching Negro League players with the colleges they attended. The Collegiate Committee's primary project for the past few years has been to do the same thing with major league baseball players and colleges. That project is nearly complete. In the course of that research, information began to arise regarding Negro League players.

First, Wiley College provided a list of seven Negro League players who played baseball there. Then two books added more fuel, *Black College Sports* by Ocania Clark and *Athletics at Morehouse College* by Frank Forbes. Both books detailed the advancement of their collegiate players. Rick then contacted Larry Lester who provided him with a working list of players and colleges.

Since that time, he has begun to contact colleges and scan through online newspaper sources to verify attendance and participation on the college baseball team. As of this writing, over 330 players have been identified as being associated with over 120 different colleges and universities. Many of the Historic Black Colleges and Universities are represented and verification is slow. If you're interested in helping out with this project, please contact Rick at [collbsb@mchsi.com](mailto:collbsb@mchsi.com).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The dates for the 2008 Malloy Conference have been changed to July 24-27. Lock in those calendar dates NOW. Help celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chicago's **East-West All-Star Classic**. Go to <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy-negro-leagues-conference/> for more information and Registration Form.

If you would like to download a registration form go to <http://tinyurl.com/5enjt6> or you may register at the SABR store at <http://store.sabr.org>.

Conference Registrations must be received by **July 14<sup>th</sup>** Hotel reservations can be made with the Willowbrook Holiday Inn by calling 630-325-6400. Room rates are \$85/night (plus tax) and the deadline for hotel reservations is **June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. ❖

## Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

### JUNE

- 1<sup>ST</sup> - JOHN "STONY" JACKSON - 79  
8<sup>TH</sup> - LIONEL EVELYN - 78  
14<sup>TH</sup> - DON NEWCOMBE - 81  
19<sup>TH</sup> - HANK MASON - 76  
20<sup>TH</sup> - AL CARTMILL, JR. - 77  
21<sup>ST</sup> - ART SIMMONS - 70  
22<sup>ND</sup> - **TOMMY TURNER - 92**, BOB SCOTT - 77  
23<sup>RD</sup> - ULYSSES HOLLIMON - 76  
24<sup>TH</sup> - NEALE "BOBO" HENDERSON - 77  
27<sup>TH</sup> - **CECIL KAISER - 91**  
30<sup>TH</sup> - OTHA BAILEY - 77, RENDON MARBURY - 70

### JULY

- 1<sup>ST</sup> - DONNIE HARRIS - 71, FRANK  
ENSLEY - 80  
7<sup>TH</sup> - "JUMPING" JOHNNY WILSON - 80  
9<sup>TH</sup> - GEORGE "CHIN" DAVIS - 69  
12<sup>TH</sup> - JIM COLZIE - 87  
16<sup>TH</sup> - CLIFF DUBOSE - 70  
18<sup>TH</sup> - BILLY HARRELL - 79  
19<sup>TH</sup> - JOHNNY FAIRLEY - 66  
24<sup>TH</sup> - "BIRMINGHAM" SAM BRISON - 67  
26<sup>TH</sup> - PEDRO SIERRA - 69  
27<sup>TH</sup> - ART HAMILTON - 73  
28<sup>TH</sup> - ROSS DAVIS - 89  
30<sup>TH</sup> - WILLIAM BELL - 77  
31<sup>ST</sup> - DON JOHNSON - 81, POP DURHAM - 76



### AUGUST

- 1<sup>ST</sup> - A.J. JACKSON - 74  
5<sup>TH</sup> - **SONNY RANDALL - 92**, IRA MCKNIGHT, JR. - 72  
8<sup>TH</sup> - GRADY MONTGOMERY - 76  
11<sup>TH</sup> - JOHN "MULE" MILES - 85  
12<sup>TH</sup> - RAYMOND LACY - 85  
13<sup>TH</sup> - GENE "FIREBALL" WILLIAMS - 75  
19<sup>TH</sup> - WALT "COACH O" OWENS - 74  
22<sup>ND</sup> - CARL HOLDEN - 66  
25<sup>TH</sup> - CLARENCE "CHOO CHOO" COLEMAN - 70  
26<sup>TH</sup> - FRANK BARNES - 81, IKE WELCH - 87,  
AL SPEARMAN - 81  
29<sup>TH</sup> - RICH BOOKER - 78, HERB SIMPSON - 87  
31<sup>ST</sup> - JAKE SANDERS - 73

### NOTE:

Congratulations to nonogenarians **SONNY RANDALL, CECIL KAISER AND TOMMY TURNER.**

Over the years, Father Time has taken 37 players in 2000, 23 in 2001, 34 in 2002, 26 in 2003, 27 in 2004, 20 in 2005, 22 in 2006, and 13 in 2007. That's 202 players since 2000.

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## Sunsets:



**ARMANDO BERNARDO VAZQUEZ** died March 16, 2008, at St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan, New York. From 1944-52, Vazquez, was primarily an infielder with the Cincinnati Clowns, Indianapolis Clowns, New York Cubans, Havana La Palomas and some Latin American teams. In 2006, he was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame. He was 85.



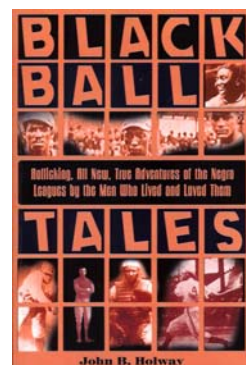
1993 reunion, left to right: Ray Noble, Manny Sanguillen, **Armando Vazquez** and Gene Benson.

**William Spencer "Bill" Nicholas** passed away on March 27, 2008, in Bay Shore, New York. Nicholas pitched for the 1935-36 Newark Eagles and Brooklyn Eagles. He was 94 years young.

## Dugout Reading!

**Black Ball Tales** by John B. Holway.

Holway's latest publication in features interviews with Doc Sykes, Rogelio Crespo, George Sweatt, Nat Rogers, Floyd "Jelly" Gardner, Carroll "Dink" Mothell, Frank Duncan, Clint Thomas, Scrip Lee, Rats Henderson, Laymon Yokely, Connie Johnson, Bill Cash, Jim Canada, Piper Davis and baseball's last .400 hitter Artie Wilson.



**Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious**

**Gentleman** by Lee Lowenfish, is a must read about the real Jackie Robinson story. Lowenfish's book is the winner of the 2008 Seymour Medal for the best book on baseball history published in 2007. Congratulations to Lee Low.

Websites of Negro League players . . . .  
 Last month we presented a list of websites by former Negro League players. Lets add Art "Superman" Pennington to the list. [www.artpenningtonbaseball.com](http://www.artpenningtonbaseball.com)



ASHFORD

ERNIE BANKS HONORED . . . . .  
 On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Chicago Cubs unveiled a statue of Ernie "Let's Play Two" Banks. Only a handful of former Negro Leaguers have had life size statues placed inside or outside of a Major League ball park.



**Mr. Cub**

*Listed below are our findings.*

- Cool Papa Bell** at Busch Stadium
- Minnie Minoso** at US Cellular
- Willie Mays** at Pacific Bell Park
- Hank Aaron** at Miller Park and Turner Field

The Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park holds the record with seven players; Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, Cool Papa Bell, Oscar Charleston, Buck Leonard, Judy Johnson and Smokey Joe Williams.

**Gibson Leonard**



**Smokey Joe**

**Satchel**

**Oscar Charleston**

Strrr-ike Three!

Buck O'Neil & Emmett Ashford to be Shrined.

The Broad of Directors of the Baseball Reliquary recently announced the 2008 class of electees to the Shrine of the Eternals. Monarch great Buck O'Neil, umpire Emmett Ashford and former Red Sox Bill Buckner were selected.

O'Neil received a record high percentage of votes for his pioneer role as a coach and founder of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Ashford holds the distinction of being the first African American umpired to officiate in both Minor and Minor League baseball.

The induction ceremony will take place July 20, 2008 in Pasadena, California.

Contact Terry Cannon, Executive Director at [teryar@earthlink.net](mailto:teryar@earthlink.net) for more information. ❖

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Willie Mays had 3,034 plate appearances without putting a baseball into play (walks, HBP, SO's).**

**SABR's Negro Leagues Committee**

- Larry Lester Co-chair, Editor
- Dick Clark Co-chair (Tstearnes@comcast.net)

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