

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

September, 2008

In the News

2008 Jerry Malloy Conference



Hotel, Motel, Holiday Inn! The Malloy Conference was another smashing success as folks came from Pennsylvania, Texas, California and even the Czech Republic to learn about Negro League baseball and sports history in Willowbrook, Illinois.

The two-day event, July 25-26, celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the East-West All-Star

Classic played annually in Comiskey Park. Featured presentations included Buck Leonard (by Bryan Steverson), Buck O'Neil & the East-West All-Star game (David Fletcher), Oscar Charleston (Geri Strecker and Rick Kenney), Chicago History Museum (Peter Alter), Minneapolis Keystones (Todd Peterson), Satchel Paige & Omaha's Western League Park (Dennis Hoffman), Alex Pompey (Adrian Burgos, Jr.), Salaries Paid (Michael Haupt), 1945 Cleveland Buckeyes (Stephanie Liscio), Kansas City Monarchs (Elizabeth Manning), Dr. J.B. Martin (Dr. J.B. Martin IV) and finally, "Race Relations in the Negro & Minor Leagues" by former player Art "Superman" Pennington. Pennington recently lost his home and memorabilia in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa flood.

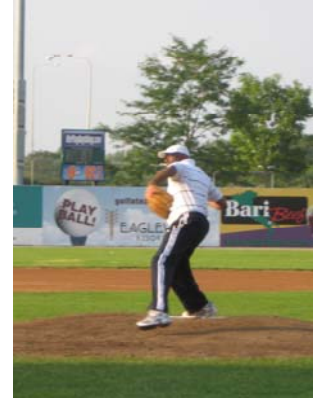
Other players in attendance included former K.C. Monarchs **Sam Allen** and **Hank Presswood**, Detroit Star **Walt Owens**, Chicago American Giants **Jumpin' Johnny Wilson**, **Al Spearman** and **Louis Clarizio**, along with Birmingham Black Barons pitcher **Ernie Westfield**.

Each presenter and exhibitor received a *signed* limited edition Hartland **Minnie Minoso** statue.



Exhibitor Michael Johnson presented a game-by-game account of the champion Page Fence Giants from Adrian, Michigan during the 1890s.

On Friday, attendees took in a game between the Schaumburg Flyers and the Kansas City T-Bones, wearing the uniforms of the Chicago American Giants and the Kansas City Monarchs. We filled up three suites and witnessed former Major Leaguers like Ken Harvey and Calvin Pickering display their talents. To the delight of the crowd, **Ernie Westfield** threw out the first pitch, a humming 85 mph fast ball. However, the loudest applause for a player was the introduction of Louis Clarizio, Jr., one of a handful of white players in the Negro Leagues. Clarizio played for the Chicago American Giants and now lives in Schaumburg, Illinois.



From Left to Right: Sam Allen, Art "Superman" Pennington, Dr. J.B. Martin IV and Louis Clarizio, Jr.

Another highlight of the conference was a presentation by **Dr. J.B. Martin IV**, dressed in his great-grandfather's trademark white suit, straw hat and fingering a stogie, promoting why the former Memphis Red Sox owner and Negro American League president should be in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The conference wrapped up Saturday night with a buffet, live and silent auction, with Dick Clark winning the Trivia Contest, edging out Bob Bailey and Ted Knorr.

White Sox Host 1st Tribute to East-West All-Star Game

On Satchel Paige's and Double Duty Radcliffe's birthday, July 7, the Chicago White Sox hosted 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 annually at Comiskey Park.

The new event is named after Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, who played in six East-West All-Star games and was a mainstay of the Chicago American Giants and several other Negro League teams.



From Left to Right: Al Spearman, Walt Owens, Hank Presswood, Minnie Minoso, Frank Robinson, Sharon Robinson, Ernie Westfield, Jerry Reinsdorf, Jermaine Dye, Harold Baines, Ken Williams, Darryl Miller, and Jimmie Lee Solomon.

Before the first pitch, three panels discussed the significance of the event and the role of younger players in carrying on the tradition of African Americans in baseball.

The youngsters dressed in replica East-West jerseys played to a 4-4 tie, as Jonathan Dorsey of Simeon hit an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth for the bowtie.

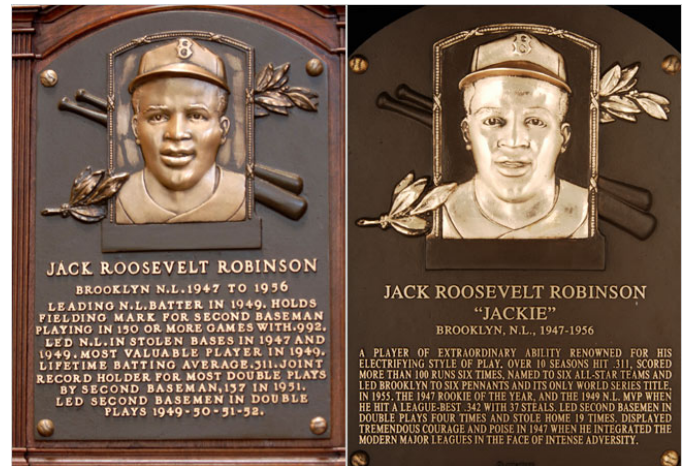
Steve Easter, from Walter Lutheran, and Blair Springfield of Decatur, took home the co-MVP awards.

The Chicago White Sox Charities donated \$10,000 to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, MO.

Jackie Robinson Honored

Text from the new Jackie Robinson Hall of Fame plaque reads as follows:

A PLAYER OF EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY RENOWNED FOR HIS ELECTRIFYING STYLE OF PLAY. OVER 10 SEASONS HIT .311, SCORED MORE THAN 100 RUNS SIX TIMES, NAMED TO SIX ALL-STAR TEAMS AND LED BROOKLYN TO SIX PENNANTS AND ITS ONLY WORLD SERIES TITLE, IN 1955. THE 1947 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, AND THE 1949 N.L. MVP WHEN HE HIT A LEAGUE-BEST .342 WITH 37 STEALS. LED SECOND BASEMEN IN DOUBLE PLAYS FOUR TIMES AND STOLE HOME 19 TIMES. DISPLAYED TREMENDOUS COURAGE AND POISE IN 1947 WHEN HE INTEGRATED THE MODERN MAJOR LEAGUES IN THE FACE OF INTENSE ADVERSITY.



OLD

NEW

The text from the original plaque cast for Jackie Robinson in 1962 read:

“LEADING N.L. BATTER IN 1949. HOLDS FIELDING MARK FOR SECOND BASEMAN PLAYING IN 150 OR MORE GAMES WITH .992. LED N.L. IN STOLEN BASES IN 1947 AND 1949. MOST VALUABLE PLAYER IN 1949. LIFETIME BATTING AVERAGE .311. JOINT RECORD HOLDER FOR MOST DOUBLE PLAYS BY SECOND BASEMAN, 137 IN 1951. LED SECOND BASEMEN IN DOUBLE PLAYS 1949-50-51-52.”

Robinson honored again!

In Lubbock, Texas, on July 3, 2008, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the College Baseball Foundation's Hall of Fame. He was part of the foundation's second Vintage-Era Hall of Fame class. Robinson was an infielder in college at Pasadena Junior College and UCLA.

The Vintage-Era designation is for those who played or coached before 1947. Robinson is the only former Negro Leaguer inducted into College Baseball Hall of Fame.

Who is the only former Negro Leaguer inducted in the College Football Hall of Fame (1971)? HINT: He played for the Leland Giants and the University of Minnesota football team.

Special Negro Leagues Draft by MLB

On June 5, 2008, at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Major League Baseball held a ceremonial draft of Negro League players. Below is a list of draftees.

[L.A. Angels](#) - NEALE (BOBO) HENDERSON--1949--of, Kansas City Monarchs (not to be confused with James Henderson of the Monarchs in 1949)

[Baltimore Orioles](#) - **HUBERT (BERT) SIMMONS**--1950--p, Baltimore Elite Giants

[Boston Red Sox](#) - **JIM COLZIE**--1937-49--p, Atlanta Black Crackers, Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns, Indianapolis Clowns

[Chicago White Sox](#) - **HANK PRESSWOOD**--1948-52--ss, Cleveland Buckeyes, Kansas City Monarchs

[Cleveland Indians](#) - OTHA BAILEY--1950-59--c, Cleveland Buckeyes, Houston Eagles, New Orleans Eagles, Birmingham Black Barons

[Detroit Tigers](#) - CECIL KAISER--1939, 1945-49--p, Pittsburgh Crawfords (USL), Homestead Grays, Detroit Motor City Giants, Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, Detroit Stars

[Kansas City Royals](#) - ULYSSES HOLLIMON--1950-54--p, Baltimore Elite Giants, Birmingham Black Barons

[Minnesota Twins](#) - BILL BELL--1949-54--p, Kansas City Monarchs, Birmingham Black Barons

[New York Yankees](#) - **EMILIO NAVARRO** (pictured)--1928-29--2b, ss, Cuban Stars (East), Stars of Cuba. He was the *oldest* player to attend at **102** years old. Navarro is a member of the 1992 Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Fame and 2004 Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame.



[Oakland Athletics](#) - IRVIN CASTILLE--1951-53--ss, 3b, Birmingham Black Barons

[Seattle Mariners](#) - **JOHN (MULE) MILES, JR.**--1946-49--of, Chicago American Giants

[Tampa Bay Rays](#) - WALTER LEE (DIRK) GIBBONS--1948-49--p, Indianapolis Clowns

[Texas Rangers](#) - CHARLEY PRIDE--1953-56, 1958-59--p, of, Memphis Red Sox, Birmingham Black Barons

[Toronto Blue Jays](#) - HAROLD (BIG RED) GOULD, SR.--1947-48--p, Philadelphia Stars

[Arizona Diamondbacks](#) - BOB (PEACHHEAD) MITCHELL, SR.--1950-57--p, Cleveland Buckeyes, Kansas City Monarchs

[Atlanta Braves](#) - **JAMES (RED) MOORE, III**--1935-48--1b, Atlanta Black Crackers, Baltimore Elite Giants, Philadelphia Daisies (NML), Newark Eagles

[Chicago Cubs](#) - WALT (COACH O) OWENS--1953-55--p, of, Detroit Stars

[Cincinnati Reds](#) - CHARLES DAVIS--1953-55--p, Memphis Red Sox

[Colorado Rockies](#) - MACK PRIDE, JR.--1956--p, Kansas City Monarchs

[Florida Marlins](#) - RICKY MAROTO--1954-56--of, p, Kansas City Monarchs

[Houston Astros](#) - **BILL BLAIR, JR.**--1947-48--p, Detroit Senators, Indianapolis Clowns, Portland (OR) Rosebuds

[Los Angeles Dodgers](#) - ANDY PORTER--1932-50--p, Little Rock Greys, Cleveland Cubs, Nashville Elite Giants, Washington Elite Giants, Baltimore Elite Giants, Indianapolis Clowns, Columbus Elite Giants, Louisville Black Caps, Newark Eagles

[Milwaukee Brewers](#) - **JOE B. SCOTT**--1944-49--of, Memphis Red Sox

[New York Mets](#) - BOB SCOTT--1945-50--p, of, 1b, Boston Blues, New York Black Yankees, Pittsburgh Crawfords (USL)

[Philadelphia Phillies](#) - MAHLON DUCKETT--1940-50--3b, 2b, ss, Philadelphia Stars, Homestead Grays

[Pittsburgh Pirates](#) - JAMES TILLMAN--1941-42--c, Homestead Grays

[St. Louis Cardinals](#) - PRINCE JOE HENRY--1950-52, 1955, 1958-59--2b, 3b, Memphis Red Sox, Indianapolis Clowns, Detroit Stars, Detroit Clowns

[San Diego Padres](#) - **WALTER McCOY**--1945-48--p, Chicago American Giants

[San Francisco Giants](#) - CARLOS SANTIAGO--1945-46--2b, New York Cubans

[Washington Nationals](#) - MAMIE JOHNSON--1954--p, Indianapolis Clowns

NOTE: Players in **BOLD** served during World War II.

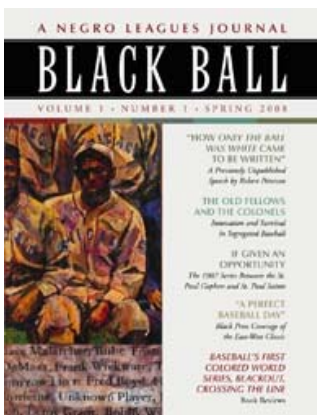
SABR 38 – First Pitch – Annual Convention

SABR's annual convention in Cleveland, Ohio, was kick-started with a special welcome reception at the Renaissance Hotel. The reception showcased a rich legacy of Negro League history in Cleveland with a special commemorative poster, videos, T-shirts, PowerPoint presentations, all promoting numerous milestones.

Some milestones included **Moses Fleetwood Walker**, from Oberlin College in Ohio, **Sam "Jet" Jethroe**, former Buckeye who later was Rookie of the Year in the Majors, **Larry Doby**, first African American in the American League, **Leroy "Satchel" Paige**, the first African American pitcher in the American League and **Frank Robinson**, the first African American manager in Major League baseball. Doby (Indians), Paige (Cubs), Robinson (Indians), Sol White (Browns) and Cristobal Torriente (Cubs) are Cooperstown Hall of Famers with Cleveland connections.

The highlight of the Negro League Committee meeting featured **Ernie "Cokey" Nimmons**, former outfielder for the 1952 Indianapolis Clowns as guest speaker.

Dugout Reading!



The first issue of the **Black Ball Journal** is out. Edited by Dr. Leslie Heaphy of Kent State University, the journal offers an insightful look at the impact of Negro League baseball on the American pastime. The first edition includes articles on the St. Paul Colored Gophers, Biz Mackey, the Philadelphia Pythians, Jackie Robinson, the Black Press, along with

a special tribute to author Robert Peterson and several book reviews. You can get your collector's edition from McFarland Publishers at:

<http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?id=BLB000000001>

The **Deadline** for the *third* edition is **January 2, 2009**

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

Research Finds:

Gary Ashwill's website reports La Grange, Texas (not Calvert, TX) as the actual birthplace of Andrew "Rube" Foster. This information matches data from an editorial by "Roundy Says . . ." from the Wisconsin State Journal of July 7, 1938. See link below for the details on Foster. <http://agatetype.typepad.com/agatetype/2008/08/where-was-rube.html>

Research Requests:

In respond to a call for authors on the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers sub-BioProject, Rory Costello of 115 Willow St Apt 4E, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2219 has requested help on finding the information below on two players.

Sam Jones

Birthdate: Social Security Death index shows 12/14/1923, not 12/14/1925 as seen in many reference books. Can anyone confirm?

Family: I have father as Charles Jones. No name for mother, no information on siblings.

Ethnic background: Can anyone shed light on what Costello conjectures as a biracial family?

What did he do after retiring in 1967 and before he passed away? All Costello has is a brief reference to scouting for St. Louis.

Can anyone put Costello in touch with his son Nick? (The other son, Mike, is in prison.)

Dan Bankhead

Did the black newspapers ever write any kind of meaningful profile of this man?

Father (Garnett Bankhead): occupation? Supposedly he was a ballplayer but quit when he saw a man killed by a bat. True or apocryphal?

How did Dan join the Birmingham Black Barons?

Do we have any color on his personal life during his years in Mexico?

One story on his death notes that his wife was coming up from Reynosa. I believe he may have married a Mexican woman.

What did he do after retiring as a player?

Why did he move to Houston?

You may contact Rory Costello at

rcostello@nyc.rr.com. ❖

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

SEPTEMBER

1ST - JAMES "SAP" IVORY - 69
3RD - REV. BILL GREASON - 84
4TH - JOSE SANTIAGO - 80
5TH - BILLY RAY HAGGINS - 79
7TH - RICKY MAROTO - 76
9TH - JIM PROCTOR - 73
11TH - CLYDE PARRIS - 86
16TH - OLLIE BRANTLEY - 77
19TH - DOC GLENN - 82
21ST - LOUIS CLARIZIO - 77
22ND - SWEET LOU JOHNSON - 74
26TH - **EMILIO NAVARRO - 103**
27TH - MAMIE "PEANUTS" JOHNSON - 73
28TH - **WILLIAM DECK - 93**
29TH - HAROLD GOULD - 84
30TH - ARCHIE YOUNG - 78

OCTOBER

1ST - JIMMY WILKIES - 83
2ND - JOE B. SCOTT - 88
4TH - PRINCE JOE HENRY - 78
7TH - HANK PRESSWOOD - 87, RAY
MADDIX - 80
12TH - EDDIE LEE REED - 79
13TH - DIRK GIBBONS - 80
17TH - BILL BLAIR - 87
20TH - CISCERO WARREN - 89, REV.
CLIFF LAYTON - 79
25TH - **WARREN O'NEIL - 91**
28TH - ARTIE WILSON - 88

NOVEMBER

2ND - BUTCH MCCORD - 83
4TH - ERNIE JOHNSON - 80
12TH - MARVIN JONES - 76
13TH - B.G. STEVENS - 74
17TH - ROBERT WILLIAMS - 76
18TH - **JAMES "RED" MOORE - 92**, BOB "PEACHEAD"
MITCHELL - 76
20TH - BUDDY OWENS - 81
23RD - WILLIAM "BABA" RICHARDSON - 74
25TH - CLEO BROWN - 75
28TH - CAL IRVIN - 84
29TH - MINNIE MINOSO - 86
30TH - ERNIE WESTFIELD - 69

NOTE:

Congratulations to Nonagenarians: **WILLIAM DECK**, **WARREN O'NEIL** AND **JAMES "RED" MOORE**. And a big Happy Birthday to one Centenarian - **EMILIO "MILLITO" NAVARRO**.

Sunsets



HARRY BARNES, JR., 66, died June 9, 2008, in Birmingham, Alabama. Barnes played third base in 1961, 1963-64 for the Raleigh Tigers, Birmingham Black Barons, and the Satchel Paige All-Stars. His father Harry "Mooch" Barnes, Sr., was a catcher in the Negro Leagues during the thirties and forties.

DR. JULES TYGIEL, 59, historian and author of Baseball's Great Experiment died July 5, 2008, in San Francisco. "Baseball was one of the first institutions in modern society to accept blacks on a relatively equal basis," Tygiel wrote in his book. "The noble experiment thus reflects more than a sage of sport. It offers an opportunity to analyze the integration process in American life."



The New York Times called Tygiel's book a "rich, intelligent cultural history" and Sports Illustrated listed as one of the top 100 sports books of all time. A well deserved honor indeed.

Tygiel taught history and baseball at San Francisco State and used this venue to illuminate larger issues of American culture and society. He is a friend and researcher that will be sorely missed by the baseball nation.

SHERMAN "JOCKO" MAXWELL, 100, died July 16, 2008, in West Chester, PA. It is thought Maxwell was the first Black sports broadcaster, starting in 1929 at WHOM and WRNY radio stations in Newark, NJ. He also wrote articles for the Newark Ledger about the Newark Eagles.

JIMMY "SEABISCUIT" WILKES, 72, died August 11, 2008, in Brantford, Ontario, Canada. Wilkes played outfield from 1945 to 1952 for the Newark Eagles, Houston Eagles, and the Indianapolis Clowns. He started his career in the United States League with the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers. Seabiscuit was one of the fastest base runners in Negro League baseball, and played for the 1946 World Champion Newark Eagles.

Websites by Negro League players

We found two more players with websites; “**Tennessee**” **Ernie Westfield**. Westfield pitched in the 1960 East-West All-Star game. Check him out at:
www.kyrstar.com/ELWhomepage.html



And all-star first baseman of the 1938 champion Atlanta Black Crackers, **James “Red Moore** at:
www.southerncurrents.com

Our list now includes websites for: Art “Superman” Pennington, Minnie Minoso, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Leon Day, Monte Irvin, Pop Lloyd, Ted Toles, and Reginald Howard. Are

there other players with websites?

Speaking of **Reginald Howard**, go to:
www.crossroadstofreedom.org and type in “*Reginald Howard*” in the search window and see an extensive video interview with this former Indy Clowns second baseman, and batboy from the East-West classic.

Hank Aaron’s Childhood Home



Former Indianapolis Clown and future Home Run King, **Hank Aaron’s** childhood home in Mobile, Alabama, is being converted to a museum. The three-bedroom house, which is currently boarded up is scheduled to open as a museum in late March of next year. The city of Mobile will own the house, but the Mobile BayBears will handle the renovations and run the museum. Mobile Mayor Sam Jones called it a “*tremendous*” tourist potential and Aaron an “*ambassador for Mobile.*”

The Bronze Buckeroo goes to Cooperstown.



Pictured Buck O’Neil statue and artist Will Behrends

At the recent National Hall of Fame and Museum induction ceremonies, on July 25th, a 6 foot statue of baseball’s greatest ambassador was unveiled. Sporting a three-button suit and holding a Monarch cap, Buck stands proudly in Cooperstown.

You can see it immediately upon entering the front door of the Hall when you pay the admission fee and look straight ahead. “*We didn’t give Will any direction, just that it be the older Buck,*” said Ted Spencer, the chief curator at the Hall. “*The style reflects Buck’s dignity.*”

Warren O’Neil, former catcher for the 1947 Detroit Wolves, from Rochester, New York, accepted the award on behalf of his brother at Sunday’s induction ceremony. The award will be presented every three years to honor someone whose life on and off the baseball field is comparable to O’Neil’s.

Future recipients, who will be decided by the Hall’s Board of Directors, will have the outstanding character, integrity and citizenship of a Buck O’Neil.

Behrends has chiseled other legends into bronze including the **Willie Mays**, **Juan Marichal** and **Willie McCovey** statues at AT&T Park in San Francisco, and also the **Pee Wee Reese** and **Jackie Robinson** statue outside KeySpan Park in Coney Island

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The Courier is a quarterly newsletter published by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR); March, June, September and December. Inquiries, submissions and research requests can be sent to Larry Lester at NTresearch@comcast.net.

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