

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

September, 2007

In the News

SABR37 in St. Louis, MO

The signature event for any baseball historian, researcher and fan is the annual Society for American Baseball Research Convention. This year's event was hosted by the Bob Broeg Chapter with efforts led by Steve Gietschier from *The Sporting News* at the Adam's Mark Hotel. A record attendance of 726 (beating Boston's old record of 712), was reported. Perhaps America's best baseball town (outside of the Big Apple) St. Louis showcased their world champion Cardinals (their 10th), previous winners of 17 National League pennants and future site for the 2009 All-Star game.

Some of the related Negro League presentations included: "*The Civil Rights Movement's Impact on Curt Flood's Fight for Free Agency*" by Brad Snyder; "*Can You Hear the Noise? The St. Paul Colored Gophers, 1907-1911*" by Todd Peterson; "*One Strike and You're Out: The Saga of Trailblazing African American Trainer William Buckner*" by Peter Morris; "*Fair Pay for Fair Play: An Analysis of Race-based Wages in MLB and the Negro Leagues*" by Michael Hauptert; and "*Left Out: Latino, Negro League Baseball and the Story of Race in America's Game*" by Adrian Burgos.

I presented a poster presentation entitled, "*Black Diamond Ladies: Owners & Players*" featuring snapshot bios of Effa Manley, Henryene Green, Olivia Taylor and Dr. Hilda Bolden.

Of course the highlight of every SABR convention is the luncheon. This year's guest speaker Joe Garagiola kept everyone laughing with his anecdotal tall tales. He also provided a signed copy of his book, *Just Play Ball* to every attendee. Also, note that Andy McCue, chair of the Bibliography Committee, won the **BOB DAVIDS AWARD**, while our very own Brian Carroll won the **MCFARLAND-SABR RESEARCH AWARD** for his article on "*When to Stop the Cheering?*" about the black press and the integration of professional baseball. ❖

Josh Gibson Honored

On June 9, 2007, the Pittsburgh City Council changed the name of Ammon Field on Bedford Avenue to JOSH GIBSON FIELD. Ammon Field in the Hill District was home to the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays.

❖

Curt Roberts Honored

On October 6, a baseball field in Pineland, Texas, and birthplace of Curt Roberts will be dedicated in his honor. The new CURT ROBERTS FIELD will be used by the Dixie League after a recent \$90,000 facelift. In 1954, Roberts became the first African-American to wear a Pittsburgh Pirates uniform, joined four days later by the arrival of Roberto Clemente. Roberts also played for the Kansas City Monarchs. ❖

Turkey Stearnes Honored Twice

On June 12, 2007, the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame announced their inductee class of Stearnes, Norman "Turkey" Stearnes, along with Glen Rice, Ray Scott, Desmond Howard and others.

Later, the Detroit Tigers honored Turkey Stearnes with a plaque on July 21st. The plaque is located at the Southeast corner entrance of the park. ❖

Detroit Tiger Tribute

Lucky Smith and Louis Manley of the Michigan Chapter of Negro League Baseball Players brought in 10 players to help celebrate the 13th annual Negro League Tribute Game at Comerica Park, July 21st.

Earlier in the day, Larry Hogan, Ernie Harwell, Curtis Granderson, Gates Brown and Della Britton Baeza, CEO of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, participated in a panel discussion on "*Robinson Breaks the Color Barrier – 60th Anniversary Forum.*" ❖

Traveling Exhibit

The **NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM** received a \$300,000 gift from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to create a photographic history of black baseball to tour historically black colleges and universities over the next three years. The exhibit features 90 black-white photographs, pennants, and jerseys with a video that chronicles the rise and fall of the black leagues. The exhibit, entitled *Discover Greatness!* opened in Baltimore at the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in June. It is currently at the Alabama State University in Montgomery, AL, (July 26 – September 23) with the next whistle stop at Florida Memorial University (October 5 – November 7). Tour stops are from six-to-eight week periods. In addition, the partnership with Bank of America will support a 10-city Major League Baseball stadium tour of another Negro Leagues exhibition entitled, “Times, Teams & Talents.” ❖

Upcoming Events

September 7th (SMITHFIELD, NC)

“*A Night with Negro Baseball League Legends*” takes place in Smithfield, NC. Honored guests include Carl “Long Ball” Long, Hubert “Daddy” Wooten, [Rev] Cliff Layton, Loo Oates and Willie Sheelor. Smithfield is south of Raleigh and near historic Selma. ❖

October 5^{th-6th} (ATLANTIC CITY, NJ)

The 15th Annual **Pop Lloyd Dinner & Awards Program** to honor Negro League history will be held at the Richard Stockton College Sport Symposium and the Taj Mahal Casino.

This year's theme is “*Against All Odds*”. Special guests at the Stockton College include writers Jerry Izenberg, Claire Smith, Stephen A. Smith of “Quite Frankly,” HOFer Orlando Cepeda and several local Negro League players.

This year's **Humanitarian Award** recipients are: Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs, broadcaster Irv Cross, tap dancer Savion Glover, community leader Marvin Hill and everyone's favorite the Cuban Comet, Minnie Minoso.

Contact Mike Everett at Meveret@aol.com for details, or call 609.927.1597 for ticket information, or visit their website www.popsballyard.org . ❖

Call for Papers: Black Ball Journal

McFarland & Company is gearing up to publish the first bi-annual Black Ball, a peer-review 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.

Articles should be between 2,000-7,000 words, exclusive of the required endnotes and abstract and should be submitted to the Editor as both double-spaced hard copy and a disk, or as an email

attachment in Microsoft Word. Editorial decisions will be made within 60 days of receiving your manuscript.

Call for Papers: Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

The conference will be held in Willowbrook, outside of Chicago. Theme for next year's conference is “All Stars of the Game.” Proposals are due by March 1st with topics related to the East-West All-Star classic, the North-South game, players chosen, managers, highlights and lowlights, record breaking performances, etc. Abstracts should no more than 350 words, with a very brief curriculum vitae. Graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals.

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

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.



SEPTEMBER

- 1ST - JAMES "SAP" IVORY - 68
- 3RD - "BO JACK" CURRY - 83, REV. BILL GREASON - 83
- 4TH - JOSE SANTIAGO - 79
- 5TH - BILLY RAY HAGGINS - 78
- 7TH - ENRIQUE MAROTO - 75
- 9TH - JIM PROCTOR - 72
- 13TH - ACE GRIGGS - 83
- 16TH - OLLIE BRANTLEY - 76
- 19TH - STANLEY "DOC" GLENN - 81
- 22ND - SWEET LOU JOHNSON - 73
- 26TH - EMILIO NAVARRO - 102
- 27TH - MAMIE "PEANUTS" JOHNSON - 72
- 28TH - BILL DECK - 92
- 29TH - HAL GOULD - 83
- 30TH - ARCHIE "DROPO" YOUNG - 77

OCTOBER

- 1ST - JIMMY WILKES - 82
- 2ND - JOE SCOTT - 87
- 4TH - PRINCE JOE HENRY - 77
- 7TH - RAYDELL MADDIX - 79, HANK PRESSWOOD - 86
- 12TH - EDDIE LEE REED - 78
- 13TH - SAMMY C. WILLIAMS - 85, WALTER GIBBONS - 79
- 17TH - BILL BLAIR - 86
- 20TH - CISCERO WARREN - 88, REV. CLIFF LAYTON - 78
- 25TH - WARREN O'NEIL - 90
- 28TH - ARTIE WILSON - 87

NOVEMBER

- 2ND - BUTCH MCCORD - 82
- 4TH - ERNIE "SCHOOLBOY" JOHNSON - 79
- 12TH - MARVIN JONES - 75
- 17TH - ROBERT WILLIAMS - 75
- 18TH - RED MOORE - 91, BOB MITCHELL - 75
- 20TH - BUDDY OWENS - 80
- 23RD - WILLIAM RICHARDSON - 73
- 25TH - CLEOPHUS BROWN - 74
- 28TH - CAL IRVIN - 83
- 29TH - MINNIE MINOSO - 85
- 30TH - ERNIE WESTFIELD - 68

SUNSETS: THERE ARE NO DEATHS TO REPORT THIS QUARTER.

Library Checkouts!

Branch Rickey: *Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman* by Lee Lowenstein. This scholarly work on Jackie Robinson and the integration of baseball begins with Chapter 17, "*An Historic Meeting in Brooklyn.*" More than 100 pages of how Rickey and Robinson interacted to bring down the color barrier.

Millito Navarro: *Una Leyenda Centenaria* by Daliana Muratti. Dr. Murratti chronicles the career of the oldest living Negro Leaguer Emilio Navarro, who played for the Cuban Stars and the Stars of Cuba. Navarro lives in Puerto Rico. Spanish only.

Willie Wells: *'El Diablo' of the Negro Leagues* by Bob Luke with foreword from Monte Irvin. Lots of new material on "the Devil" with some factual updates. Very well researched and a must for your blackball library.

Forbes Field: *Essay and Memories of the Pirates; Historic Ballpark, 1909-1971* with editors David Cicotello and Angelo J. Louisa. Check out chapter four by David C. Ogden, entitled "Black Baseball at Forbes Field." Richly footnoted and illustrated.

The Black Stars Who Made Baseball Whole by Rick Swaine. If you want to know about the barrier breakers who followed Jackie Robinson's footsteps from 1947 to 1959, this is the book to read. Find biographical information on Hall of Famers and lesser-known stars.

Cap Anson 4 by Howard W. Rosenberg. See *Appendix D: Anson & Blacks* to find out what Anson really said or didn't say about the Moses Fleetwood Walker and George Stovey. Twenty-four pages about Jim Crow baseball and life in the big leagues before 1900.

Santurce Cangrejeros, 1954-55: *La Maquinaria Perfecta* by Jorge Colon Delgado. Read about one of the greatest teams in Puerto Rican history that included Bob Thurman, George Crowe, Bill Greason, Buster Clarkson, Roberto Clemente, Sad Sam Jones and Willie Mays. Spanish only.

African American Pioneers of Baseball: *Biographical Encyclopedia* by Lew Freedman. Brief bios on Buck O'Neil, Judy Johnson, Buck Leonard, Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Don Newcombe, Larry Doby, Satchel Paige, & 10 others.

Research Find(s):

Paul Wendt discovered that the Louisville Courier-Journal on April 13, 1875 reported: *“The Mutual Base-Ball Club, of Washington, D.C., has been admitted to full membership into the National Amateur Association of the United States. This is probably the first recorded instance of the admission into the National Association of a colored club of base-ball players, the nine of the Mutuals being composed entirely of Negro players.”*

The 1st Latinos in Major League Baseball

TEAM	PLAYER	BIRTHPLACE	DEBUT
Boston Braves,	Mike Gonzalez,	Cuba,	1912

Boston Red Sox,	Eusebio Gonzalez,	Cuba,	1918
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Brooklyn Dodgers,	Adolfo Luque,	Cuba,	1930
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Chicago Cubs,	Chick Pedro,	Cuba,	1902
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Chicago White Sox,	Jose Acosta,	Cuba,	1922
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Cincinnati Reds,	Armando Marsans,	Cuba,	1911
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Cleveland Indians,	Minnie Minoso ,	Cuba,	1949 (pictured below)
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Detroit Tigers,	Ozzie Virgil, Sr.,	Dom. Rep,	1958
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N.Y. Giants,	Emilio Palmero,	Cuba,	1915
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N.Y. Yankees,	Angel Aragon,	Cuba,	1914
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Philadelphia A's,	Luis Castro,	Columbia,	1902
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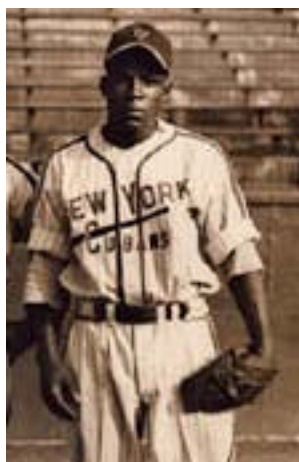
Philadelphia Phillies,	Chili Gomez,	Mexico,	1935
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Pittsburgh Pirates,	Tony Ordenana,	Cuba,	1943
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St. Louis Browns,	Oscar Estrada,	Cuba,	1929
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St. Louis Cardinals,	Oscar Tuero,	Cuba,	1918
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Washington Senators,	Merito Acosta,	Cuba,	1913
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The Committee would like to thank Colonel Sammy Miller for his years of exemplary service as Chief Editor of *The Courier*, as he takes a sabbatical to pursue other areas of interests.

For articles about the Negro Leagues, contact Len Levin, 282 Doyle Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906-3355. Or 401.351.3278 or lenlevin5@hotmail.com. See the latest SABR Bulletin for a list of available articles..

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The Courier is a newsletter published quarterly 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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Recently, the Bob Broeg Chapter of SABR dedicated this plaque at the former site of the Negro National League Stars' Park, now a part of the Harris-Stowe State University baseball field, located at 3100 Market Street.

The Stars won Negro National League pennants in 1928 and 1930. The plaque makes note of contributions from three Hall of Fame St. Louis Stars; Willie Wells, George "Mule" Suttles, and James Thomas "Cool Papa" Bell ❖