

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME NEWS

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Database of Negro Leagues Statistics Makes Online Debut at Baseball-Reference.com

*-- Searchable History: a Product of Comprehensive Study of African Americans in Baseball;
Hall of Fame Partners with Website to Make Data Available for First Time --*

(COOPERSTOWN, NY) – For more than a century, African Americans made history on the baseball diamond prior to Jackie Robinson’s breaking of the color barrier in the major leagues.

Beginning today, that history – in the most complete form ever assembled – is available to a world-wide audience through one of the game’s premier statistical websites.

Statistics on Negro Leagues players are now available through the Hall of Fame’s website partner, www.baseball-reference.com. The website, which has become the go-to resource for baseball statistics throughout the industry, will publish biographical and statistical information on all Negro Leagues players who were identified in a groundbreaking study commissioned by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum a decade ago.

“The data that forms the basis of these statistics is the result of years of tireless research by a dedicated team of historians,” said Jeff Idelson, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. *“We are so proud to have been able to facilitate this research, and equally pleased that our partner, baseball-reference.com, is able to make this information available to the public. This history that once was lost is now alive to help tell the story of the great African-American baseball heroes of the early 20th Century.”*

The Negro Leagues statistical database is the most comprehensive study on African-American Baseball ever produced; a team effort of **“The Negro Leagues Researchers/Authors Group”** deputized by the Hall of Fame Board of Directors in 2001 and led by Dr. Larry Hogan, Dick Clark, and Larry Lester. Major League Baseball provided the Baseball Hall of Fame with a \$250,000 grant in July 2000 in order to initiate a comprehensive study on the history of African Americans in Baseball, from 1860-1960.

The research resulted in a raw narrative and bibliography of nearly 800 pages and a statistical database, which includes 3,000 day-by-day records, league leaders and all-time leaders. The research was culled from box scores from **345 newspapers** of sanctioned league games played from **1920-48**.

“We are drowning in information . . . but starving for knowledge.”

