

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

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## In the News

### Jerry Malloy Conference Review

**M**AN DID WE HAVE FUN! – According to our feedback surveys the presentations were the *best ever*. We had several rookie presenters this year in Cleveland that included **Melissa Booker** (on Satchel Paige), **Joshua Fleer** (House of David), **David Krell** (Cleveland Buckeyes), **Ron Briley** (Elston Howard), and **Jennifer Vokoun** (League Park). Overall, they brought new spirit and energy in revitalizing the 15-year old symposium.

Other presentations included a crowd pleasing story about "The Woman Who Saved **Satchel Paige** for Cleveland" by **Donald Spivey**, along with **Todd Peterson's** discovery of "The Greatest Catcher in America: **George "Chappie" Johnson**." **Chris Lamb** set the story straight about "Did **Rickey** Sign **Robinson** to right a 40-year-old wrong?" Meanwhile **Ted Knorr** revealed the details of **Rap Dixon's** record 14 consecutive hits against blackball's top hurlers. (Also see page 5).

Former players in attendance, received personalized Rawlings bats, included **Ernie "Cokey" Nimmons** (of, Kansas City Monarchs, Indianapolis Clowns and the Philadelphia Stars), **Ted Toles, Jr.**, (p, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Newark Eagles and the Cleveland Buckeyes), **Gene Johnson** (1b, Detroit Stars), and **Melvin Duncan** (p, Kansas City Monarchs, Detroit Stars). They all shared their stories of triumph and tribulation, as we laughed and shed a tear or two.

Attendees were also treated to a special appearance by **Mrs. Minnie Forbes**, former owner of the **1956 Detroit Stars**. The charming Lady Forbes shared her insight about business and the personalities of players like Olan "Jelly" Taylor. (See page 6).

Another highlight of the conference was the debut of the **Larry Doby Forever Stamp** by the United States Postal Service. Postmaster **W. Spencer Hsu** and Senior Vice-President of Public Affairs for the Indians **Bob DiBiasio** presented the stamp along with **David Van Allen** of USPS's Corporate Communications. Afterwards full sheets and First Day Covers were available for hand cancellation.

In only its third year, the **Authors Panel** was another informative session. The eminent **Lee Lowenfisch**, author of "Branch Rickey: Baseball's Ferocious Gentleman," **Tom Aiello** (The Kings of Casino Park), **Byron Motley** (Ruling Over Monarchs, Giants & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues & Beyond) and **Terry Pluto**, author of several books and the sports columnist for the *Plain Dealer* revealed the inside scoop of publishing and editing.

At the conference we announced the winners of our \$2,500 scholarships; **Katrina Nguyen** and **Michael Zoorob**, and the \$1,000 Library Grants were awarded to **Windy Hill Elementary School** (Jacksonville, FL), and **Buffalo United Charter School** (Buffalo, NY). Art contest winners included **Milbert Brown, Jr.**, (in the Amateur category), **Darryl Shelton** (Professional) and **Manning Felder** (Youth).

Annual winners of the prestigious **Robert Peterson Recognition Award** for their outstanding books, were **Donald Spivey** for "If You Were Only White: The Life of Satchel Paige," and **Al Hunter, Jr.**, for "Thou Shalt Not Steal: The Baseball Life and Times of a Rifle-Armed Negro League Catcher: **Bill "Ready" Cash**". **Gary Ashwill** picked up the **Tweed Webb Lifetime Achievement Award** for his statistical and biographical research of players.

**Wayne Stivers** from Plano, Illinois received the highest honor, winning the 6<sup>th</sup> **Fay Vincent Most Valuable Partner (MVP) Award** for many years of donating vintage memorabilia to our silent and live auctions. All in all, it was another great conference. Hope to see you next year!

Hsu (L) & DiBiasio (R)



Photo by Philip Ross