

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

September, 2015

## In the News

### Please Keep the Legacy Alive!

These were some of the last words spoken by Dick Clark from his hospice bed. We tried Dick! They came from 23 states and Canada to the steel city of Pittsburgh for "**Black Baseball's**

**Best: the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords.**" Scholars, historians, journalists, professors, collegians, educators and baseball nuts, all came to witness the best and biggest black baseball conference in America. Duke was there! So were Jay and Janice. Dan and Don, Maureen and Marc, Kia and Karl, Lizz and Lou, George and Gary, Josh and John, Susan and Sylvia, Tom and Todd, Rich and Rick, Roger and Roy, Tyler and Tyler, Phil and Paul were all there. Everybody was there, except Jake from State Farm.

### THURSDAY'S LINE-UP

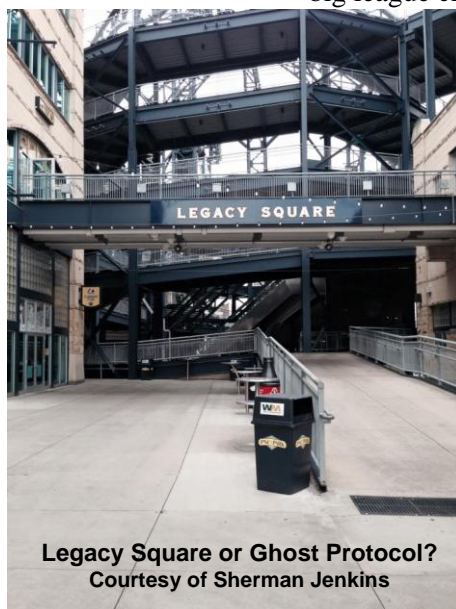
Each year we start our conference with an educational forum that benefits educators and wannabe historians. Lesson plans provided by **Dr. Leslie Heaphy**, helped with providing source materials for a variety of topics, including web links, math exercises, grammar lessons, poetry/rap, t-shirt contest, vocabulary units, document analysis, photograph examination, and games to name a few. A bonus to the session was the "**Negro League Baseball Players Activity Book I**" authored by **Floyd Stokes** and our very own **Ted Knorr**, with illustrations by **Valerie Bass**.

That afternoon we toured PNC Park, called by the tour guides and several media outlets, the "Number One" park in the country. However, it lacked the ambience of Negro League history for those who traveled from California and Quebec to see some olden and golden times. Missing in "action" were the five-foot bronze Negro League statues of HOFers **Cool Papa Bell**, **Oscar Charleston**, **Josh Gibson**, **Judy Johnson**, **Buck Leonard**, **Pop Lloyd** and **Smokey Joe Williams**.

Along with the absence of the overhead bat-like banners, PNC Park is currently void of any black ball heritage, surely to be corrected in the near future. Sadly, our two guides made no mention of the Negro League heritage of the Grays and Crawfords. Meanwhile, many attendees left with unanswered questions about the removal of the statues, or even a remedy to correct this omission about the Hill District's great championship teams, tarnishing the black and gold. Somewhere in the dark corners of PNC, the ghosts of Oscar, Josh, Judy, Buck, Pop, Smokey and Cool Papa are whispering.

With the steady decline of African Americans on big league clubs; some Major League team could fly

League or World Series pennants of their respective Negro league teams to heighten awareness in the black community. The Kansas City Royals could fly World Series flags for the 1924 and the 1942 **Kansas City Monarchs**. The Pirates could fly the championship banners for the 1943, 1944, and 1948 **Homestead Grays**. The Cubs or the White Sox could honor the 1926 and 1927 **Chicago American Giants**. Instead of celebrating one day each season with a turn-back-the-clock game, how about celebrating every day of the season with another flag on the pole. As the author of *Roots*, Alex Haley once said, "*Find the good, and praise it.*"



### FRIDAY'S LINE-UP

With our normal leadoff hitter **Bryan Stevenson** taking care of Mom, we kicked off the 18th Jerry Malloy conference with former trivia champion **Richard Puerzer** from Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. He provided a great presentation about the 1935 Negro National League World Series between the **Pittsburgh Crawfords** and the **New York Cubans**. The Crawfords were led by Hall of Famer **Josh Gibson**; while the Cubans featured should-be-Hall of Famer **Rap Dixon**. After a hard fought seven-game series the Craws came out on top.

Puerzer was followed by the dynamic WWF tag team duo of **James Brunson** and **Todd Peterson**. They had attendees in an arm-bar lock with some exceptionally thrilling captivating images of 19th century baseball. You had to be there to enjoy the richness and fullness of the rare imagery presented. We are really looking forward to their new books on this challenging research period of black baseball.

Next we had a special presentation by **Kevin Kirkland** writer for the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* and co-author of *Lucky Bats* with **Elijah "Lucky" Miller** once a bat boy for the Homestead Grays. Along with Kirkland was his illustrator **J. Monroe Butler II**, and Miller's son-in-law **Joe Hines**, as they told of Miller's travels with incredible composite artwork. As they state in the book, "*You don't have to hit home runs to be a hero.*" Complimentary copies of the beautifully illustrated book were made available to youth in attendance and to a couple of elementary school teachers. A fun time for all.

Following the lunch break we heard from



**Robert Paige**, the oldest son of Satchel, making a very rare public appearance as he humbly spun tales about baseball's greatest showman, athlete, and father. It was indeed one of the highlights of the conference. Robert signed hard-to-find Satchel Paige bobble-heads showcased in the 2005 movie "*Are We There Yet?*" featuring Nia Long and Ice Cube, were made available to attendees. For a more complete account of Robert's

presentation download Ryan Whirty's article in the August 8, 2015 edition of the *Kansas City Star*:

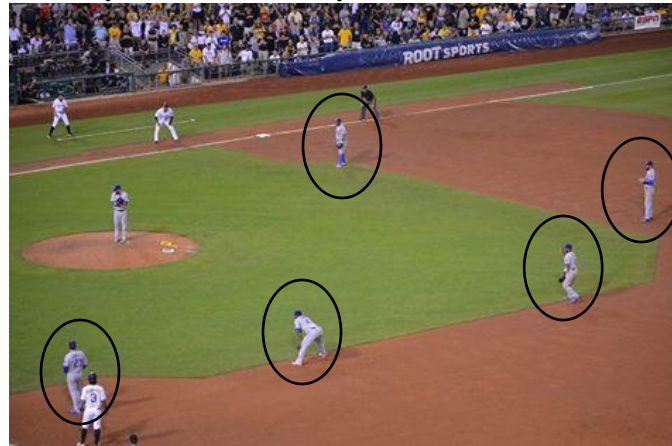
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Having to follow this awesome presentation was **David Krell's** take on **Wendell Smith** the *Pittsburgh Courier* writer and star in the movie "42". Krell is the author of our *Bums: the Brooklyn Dodgers in History, Memory and Popular Culture*.

Following Krell was soon-to-be author **Sherman Jenkins**. His forthcoming book and presentation was about **Ted Strong Jr.**, the original Bo Jackson and Prime Time. Jenkins presented under the banner that Strong was a Negro league enigma, as a former Harlem Globetrotter and a Kansas City Monarch, and deserves much more accolades.

Above photo of Bob Paige and Charles Crutchfield IV is courtesy of Charles Crutchfield III

We closed out Friday's session with a trip to PNC Park to see the Los Angeles Dodgers battle the Pittsburgh Pirates. It was ace against ace, as Cy Young winner **Clayton Kershaw** faced the league leader in Wins, Pirate **Gerrit Cole**. Kershaw's 37 scoreless innings streak was shattered on his first pitch with a 402-foot home run by Gregory Polanco. There went the no-hitter some had anticipated. Oh well! The very exciting game was closed out with a line drive single by Pedro Alvarez, pinch hitting for pitcher Antonio Bastardo, with the bases loaded against a **unique five fielders in the infield**. Setting off fireworks galore! The game, a 10-inning sweaty palmer, was one of the most exciting in Malloy Conference history. *Go Pirates!*



Courtesy of James Brunson III

## SATURDAY'S LINE-UP

Saturday's presentations was jump started by **Tim Rives**, a deputy director and supervisory architect at the Eisenhower President Library in Abilene, Kansas. He revealed the contentious relationship between the all-black Booker T. Washingtons and the all-white White Sox prison teams at Leavenworth Penitentiary. Rives provided special emphasis on **David Wingfield** and others prisoners who later played in the Negro Leagues. With a last minute cancellation, **Ted Knorr** had to pinch-hit for Professor Bernard McKenna. He did an outstanding job of introducing the attendees to the talents of outfielder **Herbert "Rap" Dixon**, as the odd man out. His powerful PowerPoint presentation provided testimonials from Hall of Famers like **Oscar Charleston**, **Monte Irvin** and **Cool Papa Bell** on why Dixon belongs in Cooperstown. According to research by Knorr, Dixon has a record 14 consecutive hits.

Next in our lineup was Professor **Rick Kenney**, a five-peat presenter at the Malloy Conference. He talked about the Chunichi Dragons of Nagoya, Japan and their embracing of former Negro Leaguers **Larry Doby** and **Don Newcombe** in 1962, some 10 years after the first NL players integrated the Nippon Professional League with barrier-breakers **John Britton** and **Jimmy Newberry**. His trip to Japan and discovery of archival materials about their visit kept our undivided attention.



Following Kenney was **Josh Howard**, a doctoral candidate at Middle Tennessee State University. His presentation traced the curatorial process of creating a digital exhibit of the **Wendell Smith** papers at the Hall of Fame, which included the issues of legal and technical limitations encountered. An outstanding presentation by the winner of this year's **John Coates Next Generation Award**. Go to his website for an account of his first time visit to the Malloy.

<http://jhowardhistory.com/2015/08/11/my-1st-sabr-a-conference-trip-report/>

From advanced technology to good old-fashioned research, along came **Jim Overmyer**, with his detective saga of his search for **Sol White's** relatives. At his 2006 HOF induction, no descendants of this 19th century pioneer could be found to accept his bronze plaque. However, thanks to Overmyer, a daughter named Marian Vashti Ewell, who lived to the ripe age of 83, was found posthumously, along with other family members. His discovery resulted in receiving this year's **McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award** for his work on Sol White's ancestry. Overmyer also won this year's Robert Peterson Recognition Award for his excellent book on the Bacharach Giants of Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Following Overmyer was a special presentation by Professor **Rob Ruck** from the University of Pittsburgh. His opening pitch included a 15-minute segment of his award-winning video "*Kings on the Hill: Baseball's Forgotten Men*." He talked about the economic impact that the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords had on the struggling Hill District and beyond.

After each presentation, we give out \$10 gift cards via a raffle, and also a gift card for the correct answer to a trivia question. The gift cards are donated from various places like Red Robin, McDonalds, Panera, Amazon, iTunes, etc. Everybody is a winner at the Malloy Conference. If you have any unwanted gift cards, donate them to the collection box by sending them to me at: P.O. Box 380146, Kansas City, MO 64138.

We are always looking for items for our silent and live auctions. If you have an extra sports book, or autograph, or memorabilia, please send your donation to Leslie Heaphy at: 135 Hillcrest Avenue NW, North Canton, Ohio, 44720. Remember your donations of gift cards and memorabilia are all tax deductible. Proceeds from the auctions help support our scholarships, library grants and grave marker programs.

To close out Saturday's session, we presented a new panel called Q & A Research. How to do research on the Negro Leagues has always been a challenging, but rewarding effort. Moderated by **Leslie Heaphy**, the heavyweights included **Jim Overmyer**, and professors **Donald Spivey** and **James Brunson III**. Based on feedback from our audience, this was one of the most

well-received and enjoyed panels. When you have Overmyer, who wrote the definitive book on **Effa Manley**, and Spivey's award-winning novel on **Satchel Paige**, along with Brunson's outstanding work on black baseball's early game, they brought their A-game with first-hand accounts of confronting the roadblocks in finding those missing puzzle pieces. Stumbling blocks were no more than stepping stones for this trio. An outstanding job by all three men.

Like every year we close out the sessions with a Trivia Contest, using the College Bowl style, hosted by moderator and quiz master **Ted Knorr** from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This year's winner was **Karl Lindholm** from Cornwall, Vermont, nipping runners up 2013 winner **Rich Puerzer** from Long Island and another New Yorker, newcomer **Philip Ross** who finished in a tie for second. This was Lindholm's second win in six years, and an engraved trophy with his name is on its way!



**James Brunson III, Phil Ross & Ryan Whirty**

## AWARDS BANQUET

Last year in Detroit we opened the banquet with the National Anthem sung by **Joyce** and **Rosilyn Stearnes**, daughters of HOFer **Norman "Turkey" Stearnes**. Unfortunately, this year we had to downgrade and settle for a recording by Whitney Houston. Those budget cuts!

This year's winners included **Jay Hurd** for being the first to register for the conference, just hours before Roy Langhans, a perennial winner. **Nallelie Vega**, who is studying the decline of African Americans in baseball, came the farthest from King City, California. Our **Robert Peterson Recognition Award** went to **Jim Overmyer** for his new book entitled, "*Black Ball and the Boardwalk: The Bacharach Giants of Atlantic City, 1916-1929*," and **William (Bill) Plott** for his incredible ground-breaking work, "*The Negro Southern League: A Baseball History, 1920 - 1951*." Our **John Coates Next Generation Award** is given to up-and-coming new scholars. This year we had a record three winners; **Josh Howard**, **Shawn Morris** and **Robert Kuhn McGregor**. A surprised **Ryan Whirty** was presented with our **Tweed Webb Lifetime Achievement Award** by Tweed's son **Roger**.

Our final award, the **Fay Vincent Most Valuable Player Award**, which recognizes contributors who give in the spirit of former Commissioner, was gifted to the humble, low-key **Roy Langhans**, a long-time faithful attendee and supporter of the Malloy Conference.

Next season, we plan for the live auction to return, along with some former players. Stay tune for updates.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

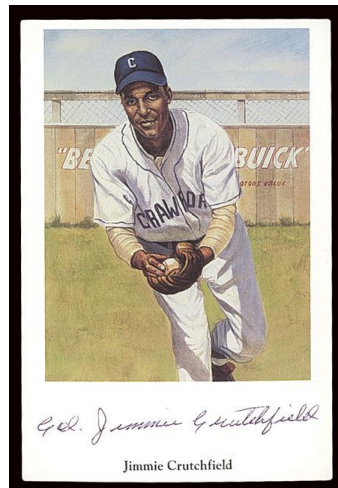
Some of our regular attendees to the Malloy Family Reunion were late minute cancellations due to health concerns; personal or family wise. We wish a speedy and full recovery to **Missy Booker, John Schleppe, Wayne Stivers, Jeremy Krock, Derrick Jones, Bryan Steverson, Ted Knorr, and Louise Lippincott.**

This was our first conference without our dear friend, brother, cousin and uncle Dick Clark. It was brought to my attention by **Tom Cipolla**, from the N.Y. Casey Stengel Chapter, that on page three of the conference booklet, I wrote that Louis Bierbauer came from the Philadelphia Phillies, not the A's. An error that editor Sir Richard would have surely caught. No doubt about it!

And thankfully for those in attendance, my threshold for crying was higher than my threshold for smiling, as I mentally muddled through three days. At times, it was a struggle to balance sadness and gladness and when and how to recognize our lost warrior. Meanwhile, let's not forget to thank site coordinator **George Skornickel**, a Pirate season ticket holder, for stepping up and vetoing my thoughts about skipping this year's conference.

Moving forward our annual Library Grants will return next year and will be renamed in honor of the late co-chair Dick Clark. Clark had a monster collection of books, press guides and yearbooks on a variety of themes. A fitting tribute to this well-known bibliophile.

Also late breaking news. We were honored to have the family of **Charles Crutchfield, the II, III and IV**, along with first lady **Sylvia** in attendance. They discovered a little bit more about their kin folk, **Col. Jimmie Crutchfield** and overall liked the work we do on behalf of giving back to communities. In the spirit of Jerry Malloy and Crawford outfielder Jimmie Crutchfield, they will be sponsoring a **\$1,000** high school scholarship next year. Officially, the initial scholarship will be



funded by the "**Crutchfield Dermatology Foundation and the Crutchfield Family.**" "Find the good and praise it!" A downloadable application is ready for you to share with any high school student at: [http://www.larrylester42.com/uploads/1/9/5/4/19545937/2016\\_jimmie\\_crutchfield\\_scholarship\\_application.pdf](http://www.larrylester42.com/uploads/1/9/5/4/19545937/2016_jimmie_crutchfield_scholarship_application.pdf)

If you would like to sponsor a program or a scholarship or a player to attend the conference, our sponsorship packages can be found at:

[http://www.larrylester42.com/uploads/1/9/5/4/19545937/2015\\_sponsorship\\_package.pdf](http://www.larrylester42.com/uploads/1/9/5/4/19545937/2015_sponsorship_package.pdf)

## Next Season We Are in La Crosse

In a recent *AARP* magazine, the City of La Crosse was billed as "Most Livable City" in America with a population of less than 100,000. Our site coordinator is Professor **Michael Hauptert** with the University of Wisconsin. A riverboat ride for our Awards Banquet is planned. Check our **FaceBook** page often for details.

## Peanuts or Crackerjacks anyone?

Are you hungry? Want to get away from the traditional ball park menu of hot dogs, nachos and beer? Then visit Donald Curry's mobile food truck in Chicago. Check out their unique carte du jour honoring Negro League legends at: <http://www.southernpitchfoodtruck.com/>

### The Chicago American Giants' Soul Food

**Plate:** Choices Include: (4) Baked Wings - Seasoned/BBQ/Jerked | (1) Baked Turkey Leg or Pulled Meat

### Effa Manley's 'Southern Comforts' - Choice

**of Two:** Olive Oil Sautéed Collard Greens w/Fresh Garlic | Collard Greens w/Smoked Turkey | Oven Baked Macaroni & Cheese | Candied Sweet Potatoes | Oven Baked Chicken & Cornbread Dressing | Red Beans & Rice

### The 'MIGHTY' Josh Gibson - BBQ Turkey

**Leg:** Marinated in our Special BBQ or Jerked Sauce

### Norman 'TURKEY' Stearnes Tacos:

Pulled BBQ or Jerked Turkey Served on Soft Corn Shells w/Lettuce and Tomatoes

### The Ted 'Double Duty' Radcliffe:

Pulled BBQ or Jerked Turkey Served on a Hot 6 inch Sub Roll w/ Grilled Onions, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheddar & Swiss Cheese Slices and Red & Green Peppers and Mushrooms

### The Philadelphia Star's - Chicken Philly Sub

Grilled Breast Strips served on a Hot 6 inch Sub Roll w/ Cheddar & Swiss Cheese Slices, Mayo, Lettuce, Tomato, Grilled Onions, Red & Green Peppers and Mushrooms

### Dessert: Yum, Yum!

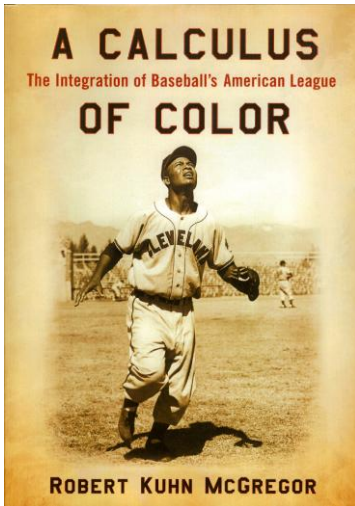
The Atlanta ABC's - Peach Cobbler

The Birmingham Black Baron - Sweet Potato Pie



## Dugout Reading:

### A Calculus of Color: The Integration of Baseball's American League by Robert Kuhn McGregor



In 1947, as the integration of Major League Baseball began, the once-daring American League had grown reactionary, unwilling to confront postwar challenges -- population shifts, labor issues and, above all, racial integration. The league had matured in the Jim Crow era, when northern cities responded to the Great

Migration by restricting black access to housing, transportation, accommodations and entertainment, while Blacks created their own institutions, including baseball's Negro Leagues.

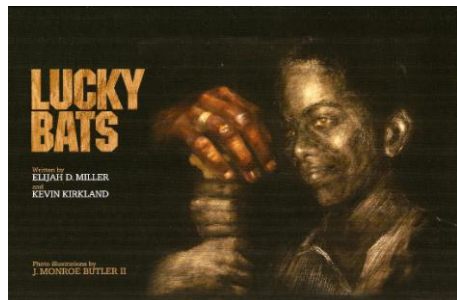
As the political climate changed and some major league teams realized the necessity of integration, the American League proved painfully reluctant. With the exception of the Cleveland Indians, integration was slow and often ineffective. This book examines the integration of baseball -- widely viewed as triumph -- through the experiences of the American League and finds only a limited shift in racial values. The teams accepted few black players and made no effort to alter management structures, and organized baseball remained an institution governed by tradition-bound owners.

### Lucky Bats by Elijah D. Miller and Kevin Kirkland. Illustrated by J. Monroe Butler II.

Elijah Miller wasn't big or strong, but he had a big heart. He played baseball whenever he could, whether it was a sandlot in Virginia in the early 1900s or a ballfield by a Pittsburgh steel mill in the 1920s. Lucky carried bats for some of the greatest Negro Leaguers and they called him their good luck charm.

Listen to his story and you'll feel Lucky, too! A must read for fans of all ages. Get your copy at:

[www.luckybatsbook.com](http://www.luckybatsbook.com)



### I Found Someone to Play With: Larry LeGrande, the Last Member of the Satchel Paige All-Stars by M.M. Angelo and J.J. Angelo

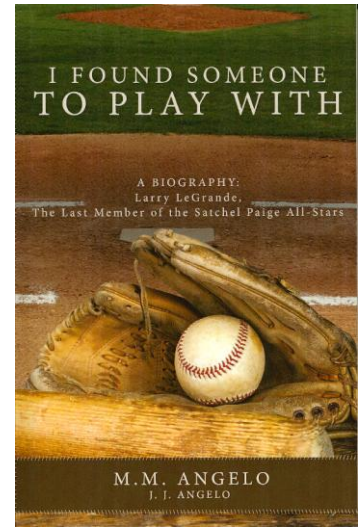
A regular attendee at the Malloy Conference, LeGrande was an outfielder and catcher in the Negro American League. He later befriended and barnstormed with one of Major League Baseball's most prolific legends, **Satchel Paige**. Unofficial records show that he was a consistent .300 hitter with some power, impeccable speed and a rocket for an arm. He played in two East-West All-Star games, 1958 and 1959.

From 1956 to 1963, LeGrande played in the Negro Leagues for the **Memphis Red Sox**, the **Detroit Clowns**, the **Detroit Stars**, and the **Kansas City Monarchs**, with a final hurrah with the **Satchel Paige All-Stars**.

He made a brief appearance with the New York Yankee's farm team, the St. Petersburg Saints in 1959.

The authors proclaim that Larry LeGrande is an unsung hero from our historical American Negro Baseball Leagues who has a story to tell about being a Negro baseball player in America's terrifying era of human conflicts and Negro oppression; he had the spirit and perseverance to overcome immense cultural, personal, political and professional challenges.

Your personal copy can be found at: <https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=978-1-63122-391-4> the website for Tate Publishing.



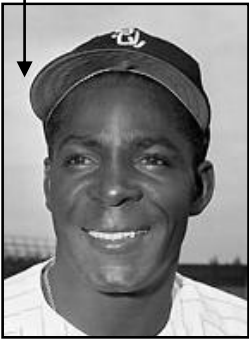
## VoteMore for Mount Rushmore!

Recently at the All-Star game in Cincinnati, Major League Baseball announced the Franchise Four for each club, along with the All-Time Greatest Living Players and the All-Time Greatest Negro League Players.

Interesting enough, two of the four honored greatest living players, Hank Aaron and Willie Mays started their professional careers in the Negro Leagues, with the Indianapolis Clowns and the Birmingham Black Barons, respectively.

Other former Negro Leaguers who made it to the Franchise Four Mountaintop were Ernie Banks for the Chicago Cubs, Jackie Robinson for the Brooklyn/LA Dodgers, and one of my favorites, **Minnie Minoso** for the Chicago White Sox.

The results of the four greatest Negro



Leagues players appeared to be popularity contest with the selection of Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige and **Buck O'Neil**. How could the fans leave out the great Oscar Charleston? Even the eloquent Buck once said, "*Charlie was a tremendous left-handed hitter who could also bunt, steal a*

*hundred bases a year, and cover center field as well as anyone before him or since . . . he was like Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth and Tris Speaker rolled into one.*"

Bill James, the widely respected father of Sabermetrics, a mathematical and statistical analysis of baseball records, ranks Charleston the fourth-best player in baseball history. That's Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Willie Mays and then the great Oscar in that order.

Believe it or not, Charleston was the National Pastime's first shrink-wrapped player. The total package! But he didn't make the final four in MLB's fan poll. Go figure!



Let's take to the streets and discover what real Negro League historians around the country really have to say. The **top composite four vote getters** in all the categories for batters were: Surprise Oscar Charleston, first; Josh Gibson, second; Cool Papa Bell third and Turkey Stearnes



fourth. *If Josh Gibson played today* - Hank Aaron, Barry Bonds, Babe Ruth, and others would still be chasing his home run records.

**For pitchers the top choices overall were:**

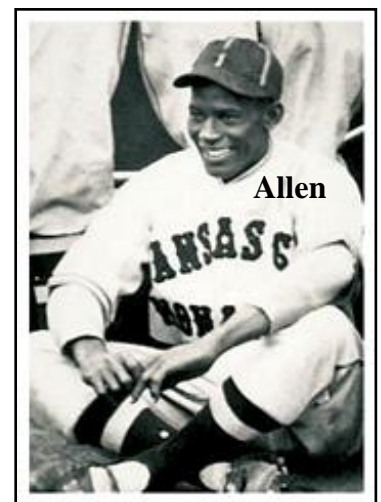
Satchel Paige, first; Smokey Joe Williams, second; Bullet Rogan, third, with the non-Hall of Famer **Cannonball Dick Redding**, beating out Willie Foster, Leon Day, Ray Brown and others. *If Bullet Rogan played today*, he would win all the stuffed animals at the carnival.



**Mount Speedmore** - the best base stealers in the game. The NLRAG reported that the all-time career base stealers in league play were Oscar Charleston and Cool Papa Bell. And they were also voted the top choices, along with **Jimmy Lyons** for the third spot on the mountain. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd and Cristobal Torriente tied for fourth. *If Cool Papa Bell played today* - Lou Brock, Rickey Henderson, Maury Wills, Tim Lincecum, and Usain Bolt would be bronze medalists.

**Mount**

**Glovesmore** - the best fielders in the game. There was a six-way tie for the four mantels; Willie Wells, Ray Dandridge, Pete Hill, Cool Papa Bell, **Newt Allen** and **Bingo DeMoss**. With the exception of Hill and Bell, the top choices were all infielders. *If Willie 'the devil' Wells played today* - The Devil Rays couldn't afford him. And *if Newt Allen played today* - Ozzie Smith would be trying to get his autograph.

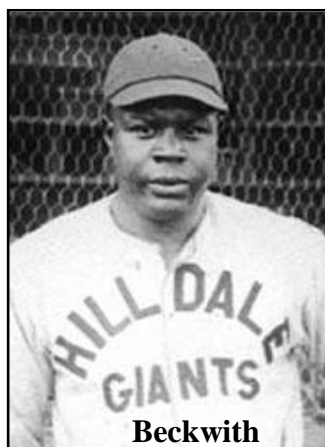




**Mount ManMore** - for the best manager or executive. The run-away winner was Andrew "Rube" Foster, followed by J.L. Wilkinson, Monarch owner, and **C.I. Taylor** formerly of the Indianapolis ABC's. Cum Posey of the Homestead Grays and C.I.'s brother **Candy Jim Taylor** tied for fourth place. *If C.I. Taylor managed today* – the Yankees and the Dodgers would both have one less championship.

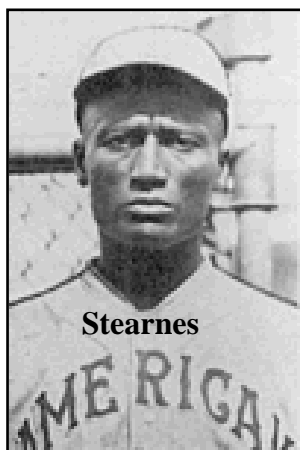
**Mount Hitsmore** - for the best hitters Oscar Charleston was a runaway winner followed by Pop Lloyd and Cool Papa Bell. Turkey Stearnes and Josh Gibson finished in a tie for fourth place. *If Oscar Charleston played today* – Albert Belle and Milton Bradley would be mild-mannered bat boys.

**Mount Slugmore** - for the best sluggers. First place went to Josh Gibson, then Turkey Stearnes and Mule Suttles for the third position. Oscar Charleston and **John Beckwith** finished in a tie for fourth. *If Mule Suttles or John Beckwith played today*, NASA would be studying their flight patterns.



Beckwith

**Mount Favmore** - for your favorite players. This voting was all over the place. However, everybody liked Cool Papa Bell. He was followed by legendary pitcher Satchel Paige, and then Bullet Rogan and Turkey Stearnes. Surprisingly, fan favorites **Buck O'Neil** and **Minnie Minoso** tied for last place. *If Cool Papa played today* - his twitter account would explode!

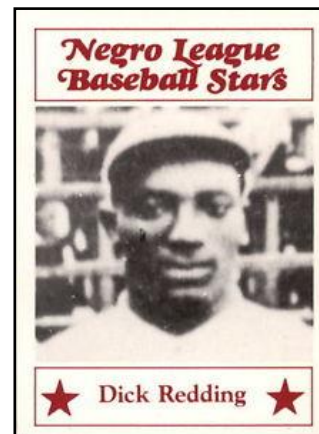


Stearnes

**Mount Studsmore** - who are the top studs in black ball? The monster man himself, Oscar Charleston finished on top of the heap. He was followed by Josh Gibson, Turkey Stearnes and Jud Wilson, who all tied for second place. *If Turkey Stearnes played today* – he would be on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

**Mount Acemore** - for your staff ace, numero uno. And the ace is Leroy "Satchel" Paige. Second place went to Smokey Joe Williams and third place to Bullet Rogan. **Cannonball Dick Redding** and Willie Foster tied for fourth. *If Willie Foster played today* – he would be the league's Most Priceless Player.

**Mount Heatmore** - who could bring the heat? The number one flame thrower was Smokey Joe Williams. He was followed by Satchel Paige, **Cannonball Dick Redding** and Bullet Rogan. Leon Day and Jose Mendez also made strong runs to the mountain top. *If Dick Redding played today* – he would be baseball's first three comma money player.



**Mount Strikemore** - the best strikeout pitchers. Paige and Williams tied for first place. Bullet Rogan took the third spot, while **Dick Redding** and **John Donaldson** tied for fourth. *If Satchel Paige played today* – he would be baseball's first gazillionaire.

And just for grins - **Mount DoubleDuty** Who were the best two-way players in black baseball? They were **John Donaldson**, Bullet Rogan, Martin Dihigo and of course, **Double Duty Radcliffe**. *If Martin Dihigo played today* – his rookie card would be worth a mint.



Donaldson

Please note, the non-Hall of Famers are in **bold font**. Sounds like the scholars of black baseball have more work to do!

## Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

### SEPTEMBER

**3RD – REV. BILL GREASON – 91**

4<sup>TH</sup> – JOSE SANTIAGO – 87

5<sup>TH</sup> – BILLY RAY HAGGINS – 86

7<sup>TH</sup> – RICKY MAROTO – 83

**9TH – JIM PROCTOR – 80**

**11TH – CLYDE PARRIS – 93**

16<sup>TH</sup> – OLLIE BRANTLEY – 84

21<sup>ST</sup> – LOUIS CLARIZIO – 84

22<sup>ND</sup> – SWEET LOU JOHNSON – 81

**27TH – MAMIE “PEANUT” JOHNSON – 80**

30<sup>TH</sup> – ARCHIE YOUNG – 85

### OCTOBER

7<sup>TH</sup> – RAY MADDIX – 87

20<sup>TH</sup> – REV. CLIFF LAYTON – 86

### NOVEMBER

4<sup>TH</sup> – ERNIE “SCHOOLBOY” JOHNSON – 87

**13TH – B.G. STEVENS – 80**

**16TH – NORMAN “SKEETER” BANKS - 95**

17<sup>TH</sup> – ROBERT ROSELL WILLIAMS – 83

**18TH- JAMES “RED” MOORE – 99**, BOB  
“PEACHEAD” MITCHELL – 83

20<sup>TH</sup> – BUDDY OWENS – 88

23<sup>RD</sup> – WILLIAM “BABA” RICHARDSON – 81

25<sup>TH</sup> – CLEO BROWN – 82

30<sup>TH</sup> – ERNIE WESTFIELD – 76

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Nonagenarians, **“RED” MOORE, SKEETER BANKS, CLYDE PARRIS & REV. BILL GREASON.**

**At press time there are about 180 living Negro League legends.**

### SABR’s Negro Leagues Committee

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More info at: <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy-negro-leagues-conference/>

## Sunsets . . . .

**MAHLON NEWTON “MAL” DUCKETT, 92**, died July 12, 2015, in Philadelphia, PA. From 1940 to 1950, he played third, second and shortstop for the **Philadelphia Stars** and his final year with the **Homestead Grays** under manager Sam Bankhead. He was the Negro National League Rookie of the Year in 1940. In 1948, he was voted to the East-West All-Star game, but gave up his spot to an up and coming infielder named **Junior Gilliam**. During his career, Duckett played alongside Hall of Famers such as Buck Leonard, Satchel Paige and Oscar Charleston.

The Philly native, like NBA star **Wilt Chamberlain**, actor **Will Smith**, astronaut **Guy Bluford**, and future teammate/catcher **Bill Cash**, was an Overbrook High School graduate. In 2000 he was one of three inductees into the **Overbrook High School Hall of Fame**. Duckett is buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia.



### WALTER LEE “DIRK, BUBBLE GUM”

**GIBBONS, 86**, died July 24, 2015, in Tampa, Florida. Gibbons was a right-handed pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns from 1948 to 1949, under manager Buster Haywood. His teammates included **Goose Tatum** at first base and catcher **Sam Hairston**. He also pitched in the ManDak League for the **Brandon Grays** (1949-1950). While playing in Canada, Gibbons picked up the nickname “Bubble Gum” because he would chew gum and blow bubbles while on the mound. He had a remarkable 1949 season: he won 19, lost 5 and had 229 strikeouts.

Gibbons was drafted in the 1950’s into the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War (1950-1953) in the 3rd infantry division based out of Ft. Riley in Kansas. After his service ended he returned to Manitoba, Canada to play baseball with the **Winnipeg Giants** in 1953. Gibbons returned to **Brandon Grays** in 1954 and ended his playing career with the **Minot Mallards** of North Dakota, Canada (1955-1957).

In the 1990’s he was honored at a Tampa Bay Rays game and threw out the opening pitch. In June of 2006, Gibbons was inducted into Canada’s **Manitoba baseball Hall of Fame**. In 2009, Major League Baseball held a “Mock Draft” in Orlando at the Wide World of Sports Arena as each MLB team drafted a Negro League Baseball player. The **Tampa Bay Rays** selected Walter Lee Gibbons. He was a long time employee with the University of Tampa and was currently employed at the time of his passing.