

NORMAL "TWEED" WEBB

1906 - 1995

"I've Seen Them All"

One of baseball's greatest historians is Normal "Tweed" Webb. His rich legacy started with his acquired nickname from an often worn tweed suit in grade school. Webb was introduced to baseball when his father took him to a game between the St. Louis Giants and the Indianapolis ABC's.

At the age of twelve, he became the official bat boy for Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants when they visited St. Louis. As a bat boy he got a chance to witness the genius of Foster and often bragged about the stellar play of future Hall of Famers like James "Cool Papa" Bell, Oscar Charleston, Cristobal Torriente, Ben Taylor, Norman "Turkey" Stearnes, Wilber "Bullet" Rogan, Raleigh "Biz" Mackey, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, Smokey Joe Williams and many, many others.

From this genesis, Webb played semi-pro ball with the St. Louis Black Sox, and the Fort Wayne Pirates, while serving as a writer for the *St. Louis Argus* and *St. Louis American* newspapers, interrupted with service in the **UNITED STATES NAVY** from 1944-45.

Webb also organized several baseball leagues; one named the **RUBE FOSTER LEAGUE**, which produced future Major Leaguers like Elston Howard, Nate Colbert, Luke Easter, Al Smith, Sam Jethroe, and Quincy Troupe.

In 1974, Webb was inducted into the **ST. LOUIS AMATEUR BASEBALL HALL OF FAME**. The following year Congressman William L. Clay honored him with a tribute in the **CONGRESSIONAL RECORD**. Bob Burnes, former sports editor of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* once said, "*Tweed Webb has done more in bringing recognition to the black player than anyone else.*" Later in 1993, he was selected to the Blue Ribbon Committee to help evaluate Negro League talent for potential selection to the **NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME** in Cooperstown, New York.

A life-long member of the **SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH** (SABR), he dedicated more than 75 years of service as a fan, batboy, player, manager, sportswriter, officer scorer, historian and a tireless campaigner to get former Negro Leaguers into the Hall of Fame.

We present this award to the Historian/Researcher with the dedication and commitment that best exemplifies Tweed Webb's passion, pride and excellence for researching the most exciting chapter in baseball history - the Negro Leagues.

