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OPENING DAY 2020 | VOLUME 42 | NUMBER 2 | THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HALL OF FAME

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# MEMORIES and Dreams

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

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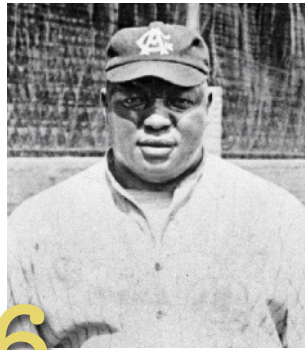
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MAGAZINE HISTORIAN Marty Appel  
PHOTO CREDITS: All historical images,  
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, unless otherwise indicated  
H.●. ZIMMAN, Inc.  
Seaport Landing / 152 The Lynnway / Lynn, Massachusetts 01902  
Email: info@hozinc.com / Website: hozimman.com  
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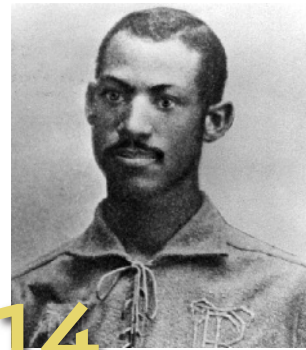
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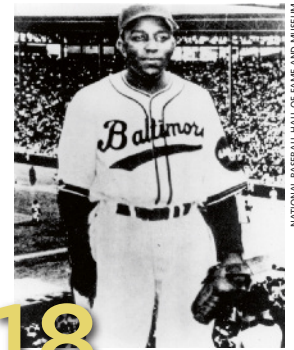
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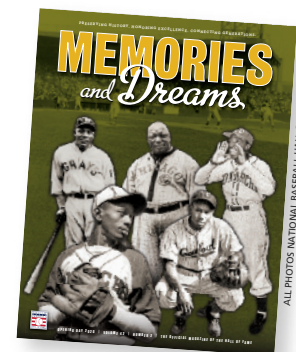
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The legends of Negro Leagues baseball include (clockwise from top left) Jud Wilson, Rube Foster, Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige, whose stories live on at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

# FROM THE VICE CHAIRMAN > JOE MORGAN



**W**hen I was in college, I wrote a thesis on the Negro Leagues. I knew about Satchel Paige, I knew about Josh Gibson – but I also knew there were many more players with important legacies to be remembered. So I read everything I could about these guys, and I was enamored with what they had done on the field and who they were as people.

Doing that research was a labor of love for me, and I kept going deeper and deeper, as far as I could into the history. I was really rewarded for it – to learn what they had to go through to play, and yet how much they enjoyed the game.

After writing my thesis about the Negro Leagues, I always felt I represented the Negro Leagues players who came before me – I felt like I was an extension of them. There was a kinship with all of them that I continue to hold onto.

Willie Stargell used to invite former Negro Leagues players to his bowling tournament in Pittsburgh to promote awareness of sickle cell anemia. At those events, I was lucky enough to get to know all those guys, including Satchel Paige and the great Buck O’Neil. I’d read all about these men for my college thesis, and here I am sitting with them, talking with them about the Negro Leagues. Satch was the man – the most interesting character you could meet, with unbelievable stories and an unbelievable personality.

At that time, it felt awkward that I got a chance to play in the big leagues and these guys, who may have been better than all of us, didn’t. One day, I confided this to Buck and he told me: “Joe, don’t ever feel guilty. I got all I wanted out of this game, and all those guys who played in the Negro Leagues did, too. The only reason we wanted to play in the major leagues was to show people that we were as good or better. We just loved the game.”

And from that moment on, I felt a lot better about my career.

The man who jump-started baseball’s acceptance of the Negro Leagues was Ted Williams. When I was a 22-year-old playing in Houston in 1966, Williams took the stage for his Hall of Fame Induction. In part he said: “I hope that someday, the names of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson in some way can be added as a symbol to the great Negro Leagues players who are not here only because they were not given the chance.”

These words not only paved the way for the 35 Negro Leaguers now a part of the Hall of Fame, but led all of baseball – from the Commissioner’s Office down to the minor leagues – to think about Negro Leaguers in a different light. “We” as African Americans and “we” as baseball fans need to give Ted Williams a pat on the back. As they say, “When Ted Williams speaks, everybody listens.”

Ted’s influence continues to be felt. In 2000, the Hall of Fame made a significant investment in the Negro Leagues, commissioning a group to research as much as possible about the league and its players. It became one of the most important accomplishments of the Hall of Fame.

The results of this commission led to a massive amount of previously unknown material and statistics. This information created a whole new picture of the players and led to a special committee that elected 17 Negro Leaguers to the Hall of Fame in 2006.

This year, as the Hall of Fame celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Negro Leagues’ founding, it’s important to continue to teach its history. You can’t tell the story of baseball without including the Negro Leagues, and for more than three decades, the Hall of Fame’s *Pride and Passion* exhibit has been sharing these important stories with its visitors. And the Hall of Fame’s educational outreach team delivers these stories directly to students of all ages to ensure that these important lessons of the past are not forgotten.

I’ll always remember something that Willie Mays told me early in my big league career. He said: “Joe, you always want to leave the game better than you found it.”

Making the game better means celebrating its diversity. Making the game better means that there’s an opportunity for everyone to play the game and to help grow this game. That’s the ongoing legacy of the Negro Leagues. **1**



FRANK O'BRIEN/GETTY IMAGES

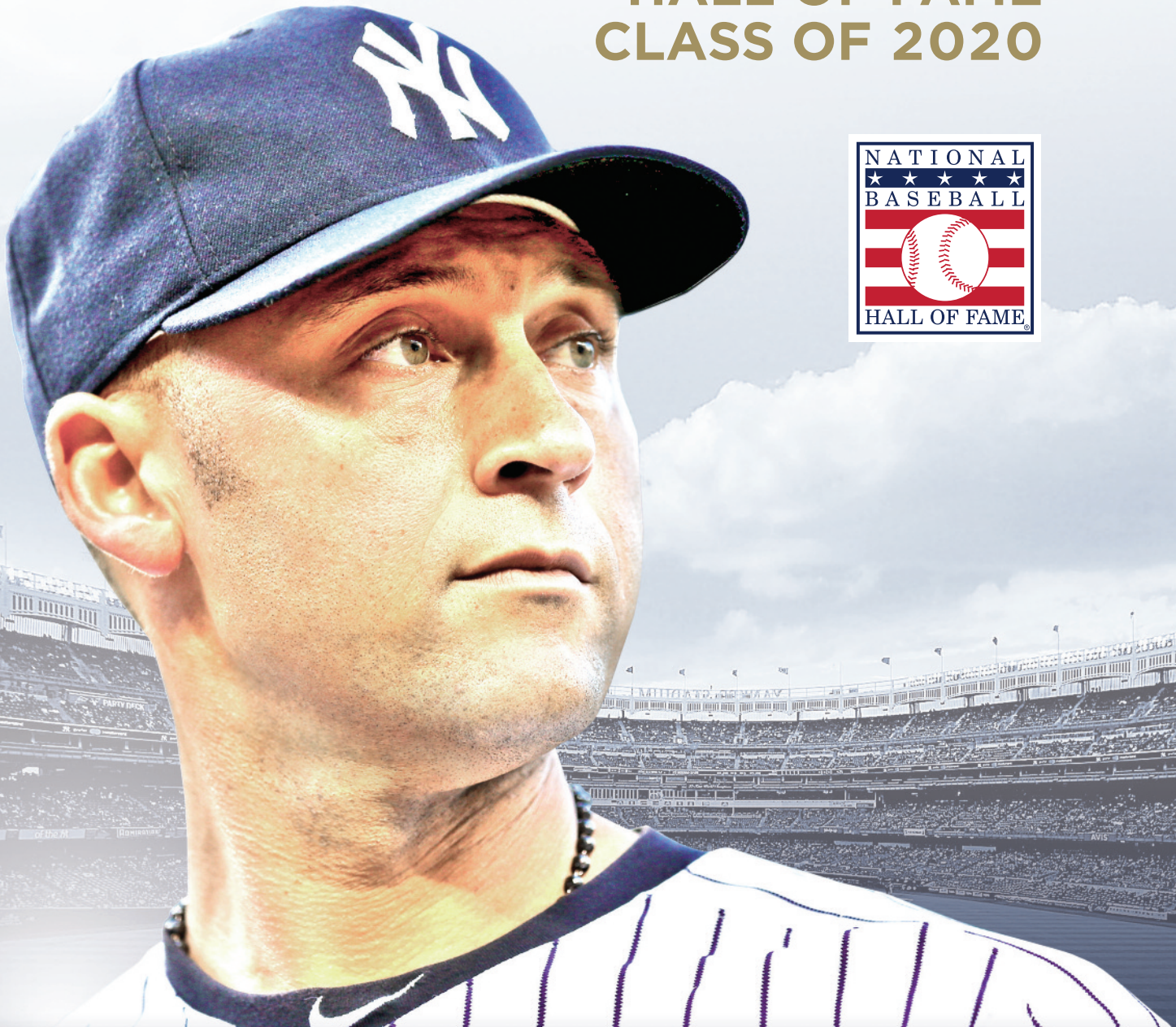
Hall of Fame Vice Chairman Joe Morgan was inspired on and off the field by the legacies of Negro Leagues heroes.

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## A night among the legends

Spend a night with baseball's legends in Cooperstown as part of the Museum's Extra Innings Overnights program.

Children ages 7-12 and their adult guardians can sleep in the Hall of Fame Gallery among the plaques honoring Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Jackie Robinson and other greats.

The evening includes access to the Museum after hours, special hands-on programs and a late-night snack and movie.

Check-in begins at 6 p.m. with the program starting at 7 p.m. Activities run until a little after 11 p.m.

All participants and their belongings must be removed from the Museum by 8 a.m., but participants are welcome to return when the Museum opens at 9 a.m.

Upcoming dates for Extra Innings Overnights include April 25, Oct. 24 and Nov. 7.

To book your experience today, call (607) 547-0349.

## Enjoy an MVP experience

Fans have the opportunity to explore the Hall of Fame through a special program designed to give Cooperstown visitors a VIP Experience. The Museum has partnered with Cooperstown accommodations to offer this unique package, which features behind-the-scenes experiences at the Museum, including a Hall of Fame Sustaining Membership (\$125 value), exclusive after-hours access to the Museum on Thursday evening, a Library archive tour, a Museum collections artifact presentation and concludes with a private late-afternoon reception with light refreshments.

This special package is a great way to learn more about the Museum and is available for purchase through select Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce accommodations or by calling (607) 547-0249.

For more info and a list of accommodations, visit [baseballhall.org/VIPexperience](http://baseballhall.org/VIPexperience). Dates for upcoming packages include Sept. 10-11 and Nov. 5-6.

## STAFF SELECTIONS



MILO STEWART/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**Name:** Nash Van Dyke

**Position:** Finance Associate

**Hall of Fame Debut:** 2018

**Hometown:** Springfield Center, N.Y.

**Favorite Museum Artifact:**

Bat used by David Freese of the St. Louis Cardinals during Game 6 of the 2011 World Series on Oct. 27, 2011, when he recorded the game-tying hit in the bottom of the 9th inning and the walk-off solo home run in the bottom of the 11th inning, giving the Cardinals the 10-9 win over the Texas Rangers.

**Memorable Museum Moment:**

Meeting the first unanimous Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame electee: Mariano Rivera.

## A look behind the curtain

The fifth annual Collection Care and Conservation Workshop takes place Oct. 2-3, offering fans exclusive access to the Hall of Fame collection and an enriching look at how Museum staffers care for cherished baseball artifacts. Highlights include an artifact spotlight featuring items from the Museum Collection – home to thousands of authentic three-dimensional items – and a tour of the Library archive.

The workshop makes for a great getaway for individuals, couples and families, or a unique gift for a special baseball fan in your life. The package also includes a Hall of Fame Sustaining Membership, valued at \$125.

The Workshop is available for purchase exclusively through select Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce accommodations, and a list of participating accommodations is available at [baseballhall.org/visit/collection-workshop](http://baseballhall.org/visit/collection-workshop). More info is also available by calling (607) 547-0249 or emailing [experience@baseballhall.org](mailto:experience@baseballhall.org).

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# EQUAL BUT SEPARATE

THE CREATION OF THE NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE 100 YEARS AGO  
PROVIDED AFRICAN-AMERICAN STARS  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THEY COULD PLAY.

BY BENJAMIN BLOCK

**S**ince its earliest days, baseball has been a human enterprise. As a result, flaws have been woven into the game as apparent as the 108 crimson red stitches that bind the cowhide leather-fashioned ball used to play it.

And yet, from those flaws have often flowed ideas that have bettered the game. Few better examples of this exist than the creation of the Negro National League. Furthermore, rarely has something so ugly – segregation – aided in producing something so transformative.

So as 2020 commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the Negro National League, it merits reminding that at that time in baseball, and inherently in our country, segregation was widely enforced, which only furthered already untenable discrimination against African Americans.

“I think African Americans have disproportionately dominated our culture because of the very fact that they had the peculiar experience of being un-free in a free land,” remarked impassioned documentarian Ken Burns, whose 1994 PBS documentary, *Baseball*, beautifully and comprehensively chronicled the history of our National Pastime.

The nature of Burns’ point, as it relates to the establishment of the Negro National League, is heavily connected to two major events in our country’s history.

The landmark 1896 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, known as

*Plessy v. Ferguson*, legally conditioned American society to treat African Americans as “separate but equal,” which, by doing so, counteracted President Abraham Lincoln’s abolishment of slavery 31 years earlier.

Serving as a reflection of socialization in America, baseball was then, and will always be, a microcosm of our nation.

Spurred by self-belief and contrasted by ignorance, the Negro National League was born on Feb. 13, 1920, in Kansas City, Mo. And according to the president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Bob Kendrick, the centennial stirs many emotions and memories, but celebration still wins out.

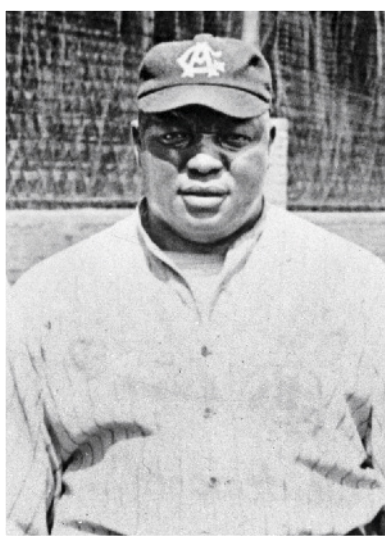
“The Negro Leagues is not a victimization story, even though it is anchored against the backdrop of American segregation,” Kendrick said.

“It’s about pride. It’s about passion. It’s about courage. It’s about determination. It is about perseverance. And, as often times I say, it’s about the refusal to accept the notion that you’re unfit to do anything, so I’ll show you.”

As the story goes, Andrew “Rube” Foster formed the Negro National League following a meeting inside a YMCA located in the historic 18th and Vine district of Kansas City, which at the time was a cultural crossroad where baseball and jazz intersected.

Foster, an outstanding pitcher in his youth, would earn election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981 for his efforts on and off the field to bring equality to the game.

Nine years later, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was born in



Rube Foster, a star pitcher for pre-Negro Leagues teams in the early years of the 20th century, formed the Negro National League in 1920 in Kansas City. The Negro Leagues would become one of the most prosperous African-American businesses in America.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM





The Negro National League was established in 1920 during a meeting at the YMCA on the corner of 18th & Vine in Kansas City, Mo.

Kansas City in a one-room office. There were better business opportunities to build the museum elsewhere in Kansas City, and even more detractors, as Kendrick recalled.

But following the advice of the legendary John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil, there was a conscious decision to establish the museum just steps away from the YMCA building where Foster made history for African Americans. One significant offshoot has been the resurrection of historic 18th and Vine, something Kendrick said he’s tremendously proud of.

“You walk these streets coming into the Negro Leagues Museum, and, man, you’re walking the same streets as Satchel Paige and Cool Papa Bell and Josh Gibson and all the other legendary stars of the Negro Leagues who walked those very same streets,” Kendrick said.

Prompted by his thoughts about Foster and his legacy, the word “genius” flew out of Kendrick’s mouth quicker than the bat speed of Gibson... or a fastball by Paige... or the foot speed of Bell.

“We *know* that perhaps the greatest home run hitter of all time was Josh Gibson. We *know* that Satchel Paige probably won two or three times as many games as Cy Young, who is the leader in wins. We *know* that Cool Papa Bell probably stole more bases than anybody else,” Kendrick said with an unbiased level of certainty.

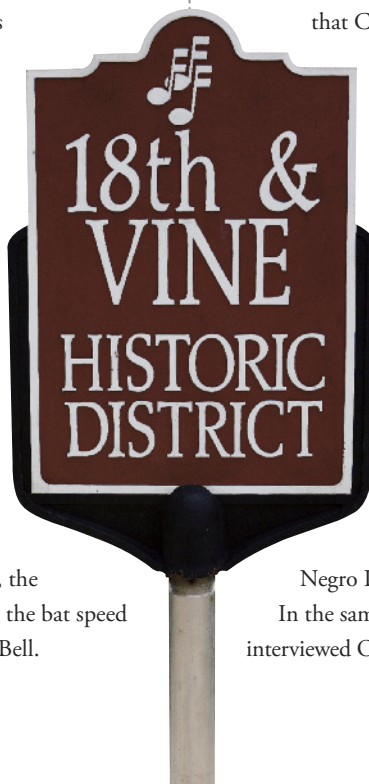
Although Foster’s manifestation of a separate but parallel baseball universe was thriving in the 1920s and into the 1930s, the closest African-American players would get to integrating Major League Baseball – until Jackie Robinson famously did so on April 15, 1947 – was through barnstorming.

This was a term for staged exhibition games between the segregated players and the two leagues.

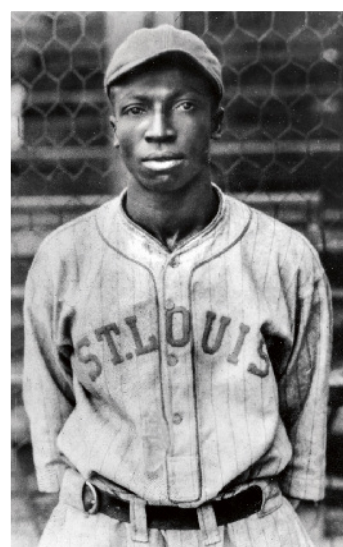
Ed Randall, formerly of the critically acclaimed television show *Ed Randall’s Talking Baseball*, recalled how Major League Baseball’s white stars of the 1940s, including Boston Red Sox slugger Ted Williams and Cleveland Indians hurler Bob Feller, would return from barnstorming in absolute awe of the talent of

Negro Leaguers.

In the same breath, Randall was reminded of the time when he interviewed O’Neil, the former Kansas City Monarchs first baseman.



GETTY IMAGES





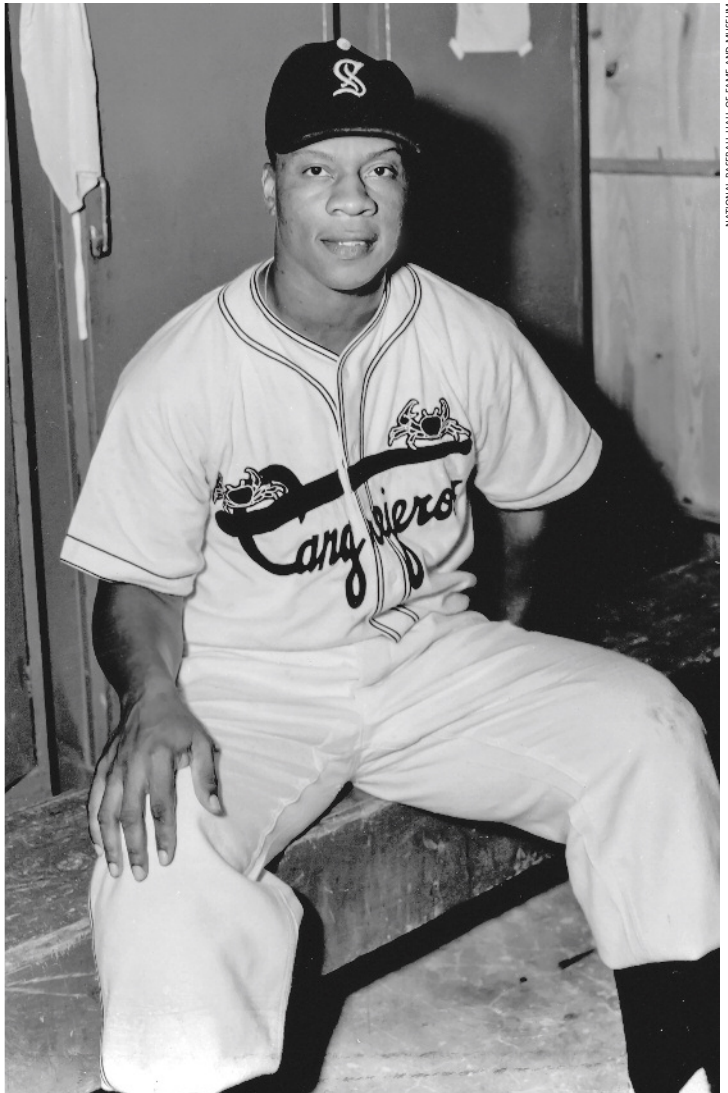
**Above:** The annual East-West Negro Leagues All-Star Game would attract huge crowds to ballparks, including Comiskey Park in Chicago. This photo features the 1937 East team. **Left:** (left to right) Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Rube Foster and Satchel Paige were some of the Negro Leagues' greatest legends whose feats rivaled – and often surpassed – their counterparts in Major League Baseball.



“One of the questions I asked him was, ‘Did you ever feel a sense of bitterness because of this arbitrary exclusion from the major leagues?’ He said, ‘No. How do you know our league wasn’t better than theirs?’”

O’Neil had a remarkable sense of humanity, especially considering that he, and every other Negro Leagues player, had every right to harbor resentment. It’s also one of the many reasons why Burns revealed that he and O’Neil became close through the years, and that O’Neil was “like a father figure” to him.

“People who are able to withstand the societal assaults of racism and discrimination of inequality and lack of opportunity – that’s an amazing thing,” Burns said.



**Left:** Buck O'Neil starred as a player in the Negro Leagues in the 1930s and '40s and was later the first African-American coach in Major League Baseball. The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award is named after him. **Right:** Willard Brown was a Negro Leagues stalwart who played for the St. Louis Browns in 1947, teaming with Hank Thompson to become the first African-American teammates in the starting lineup for an MLB team. Brown was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2006.

Following Robinson's righteous path less than three months later was Larry Doby, the first African American to play in the American League. Soon after Doby, Hank Thompson and Willard Brown went to the St. Louis Browns. Both struggled, but not before becoming the first African-American teammates in the starting lineup in Major League Baseball history. Not seeing the kind of dividends that Robinson and Doby delivered for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Cleveland Indians, respectively, the Browns essentially re-segregated their roster until 1951 when they signed Paige, who at that point was 45 years of age.

"There had been this ongoing desire to see how great black stars would fare if they got the opportunity to play in the major leagues, because no matter what they had done in building the Negro Leagues, the general consensus – right or wrong – was that the best baseball was being played in the major leagues," said Kendrick, cautioning that the African-American communities may not have realized what they were losing when the Negro Leagues began to dissolve.

"Was there a great loss when we lost the Negro Leagues?" Kendrick pondered rhetorically. "Absolutely," he answered.

However, it's never lost on Kendrick that Foster's vision from the start

in 1920 was to create a league so dynamic and competitive that Major League Baseball would be forced to expand, akin to the later AFL-NFL and ABA-NBA mergers.

While it didn't work out quite like those mergers, Negro Leagues players still managed to make history even if they didn't know that they were.

"They just wanted to play ball, but because they were so passionate about this game, they ultimately changed this game and our country for the better," Kendrick said.

Unfortunately, there's always a cost for progress, and 100 years ago the Negro National League and its players paid such a dear price. However, out of it came a story of economic empowerment, social advancement, unprecedented leadership and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

"When we look at the Negro National League and its history, we're looking at a mirror that holds itself up to all of American society and says, 'We failed, and yet out of that failure came an extraordinary thing,'" Burns said. 🍌

*Benjamin Block is a freelance writer from New York City.*

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**TED SIMMONS & LARRY WALKER**





# Crossover Star

The legacy of one-of-a-kind Negro Leagues phenom Satchel Paige endures in pop culture.

BY ANDREW LAWRENCE

**T**he preamble to the average big-time sporting event has become a pop culture moment unto itself, with players treating the pedestrian commute from their subterranean parking spaces to the locker room like a catwalk, cameras trained on their every move.

As fashion statements go, you'd be hard pressed to top that of the NFL's Patrick Mahomes before the Kansas City Chiefs played host to the Indianapolis Colts on a Sunday night last October, the Chiefs' first primetime game of the season.

Like Wyatt Earp stalking into the O.K. Corral, Mahomes swaggered into Arrowhead Stadium in a red-and-white Kansas City Monarchs jersey over a white hoodie, sending pro football fans scrambling to their smart devices to unpack his layered tribute.

Besides paying homage to his city, the MVP quarterback called out his own deep baseball lineage. His father, Pat, pitched in the big leagues for the better part of 11 seasons. His godfather, LaTroy Hawkins, another long-time MLB pitcher, was a former teammate of Pat's. And Mahomes himself pitched at Texas Tech before making the full-time switch to football his junior year of college.

What's more, Mahomes was celebrating the Negro Leagues and its longest-running team on the 13th anniversary of the passing of Buck O'Neil, a former player-manager who'd go on to become a leading ambassador for the segregated game. But the kicker was the No. 25 jersey itself, a 1942 replica of the one worn by a Negro Leagues standout named Satchel Paige.



Satchel Paige poses with a 45-pound catfish he caught following a scoreless relief appearance for the St. Louis Browns against the Detroit Tigers on June 27, 1952. The photo ran in the *New York World-Telegram* and was representative of Paige's celebrity throughout not only the baseball world but also in pop culture.

"I wish I could tell you that it was my brilliant marketing idea," said Negro Leagues Baseball Museum president Bob Kendrick, who was flooded with interest after Mahomes' gesture. "But I can't. His folks actually called us."

You could say that Leroy Robert Paige was the Patrick Mahomes of his day. But in truth, the Mobile, Ala.-born hurler, who reportedly got his nickname porting bags as a child and whose parents inserted an "i" into their surname "to sound more high-tone," was bigger.

He was a lanky and loquacious superstar who threw hard, lived harder and broke attendance records just about everywhere he went. A once-in-a-generation talent, Paige

hung in long enough to cross over into the major leagues in 1948, the year after Jackie Robinson broke the color line, and proved good enough in his 40s to be named an All-Star twice. He also became the first African American to pitch in the World Series when Cleveland beat the Boston Braves in the 1948 Fall Classic.

All the while, Paige cultivated an air of intrigue around his exact birth date. In a 1971 appearance on *What's My Line* as the mystery guest, he joked, "I'm the oldest man in the United States that don't nobody know nothin' about his age." At other times, he'd kid that a goat had eaten the Bible containing his birth certificate and "the midwife died and all the books burned up."

His preternatural ball control made him every bit as cocky as Jack Johnson before him and Muhammad Ali after. On barnstorming national tours with the Negro Leagues, he famously ordered his outfielders to take a seat in the grass before striking out the side. He gave his pitches names like "trouble ball" and "midnight rider."

But Paige tempered his boastfulness with a personality that was winsome, infectious and bursting with enthusiasm for the game. In short, he was the total package — a silver-tongued self-promoter, too. And people couldn't help but buy what he was selling.

"He had the look, the style — he had mad swag," Kendrick said. "If he was doing it in this era of social media, I'm not sure there'd be anybody you could compare him to."

By his own reckoning, Paige played in more than 2,600 games for at least 13 teams over the better part of four decades. And in a fitting farewell, he allowed one lone hit in his final three innings on the mound — when he started for MLB's Kansas City Athletics in 1965 at the ripe age of 59. And he surely would have been officially credited with more than 28 wins and 288 strikeouts if Negro Leagues records were added in. (Paige also figured he had thrown at least 55 no-hitters.)

Since suffering a fatal heart attack in June 1982, a month before his (alleged) 76th birthday, Paige has abided as a symbol of durability and perseverance in the zeitgeist.

In the '60s and early '70s, Paige was a regular on the TV guest-star circuit, appearing on everything from *The Tonight Show* to *Dinah's Place*. He filled the big screen as a buffalo soldier



Satchel Paige (right), then playing for the Kansas City Monarchs, shares a laugh with Yankees star Lefty Gomez. Paige's ability and charisma made him a national celebrity even before Jackie Robinson integrated Organized Baseball in 1946. Paige debuted in the majors in 1948 for the Cleveland Indians, helping them to the World Series championship.

in the 1959 spaghetti western *The Wonderful Country* and played himself in the 1949 sports drama *The Kid from Cleveland*. One of the great thrills of Paige's life, reportedly, was serving as

an advisor on the 1981 made-for-TV biopic *Don't Look Back*, which starred Louis Gossett Jr.

He's since been immortalized in a movie (by the eminent Delroy Lindo in the 1996



Satchel Paige spent three seasons with the St. Louis Browns, the best of those coming in 1952 when he went 12-10 with a 3.07 ERA in 46 appearances. Paige also pitched in the majors for the Indians and the Athletics.

straight-to-cable classic *Soul of the Game*) and as a bobblehead (voiced by the inimitable Tracy Morgan in the 2005 comedy *Are We There Yet?*). Director/seamhead Woody Allen even named his first-born son (ace investigative reporter Ronan Farrow) "Satchel."

And then, of course, there was the social media trendsetting fashion statement by Mahomes, who visited the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum as Kendrick's guest as a Chiefs rookie in 2017 and clearly held fast to that experience. He not only wore the Paige jersey to the game, but also put it back on for the news conference afterward.

"My dad always told me about Satchel Paige," he told reporters. "He and my godfather, they looked up to him and all the different stuff that he did on the mound, as far as the theatrics. Obviously, he was a great pitcher."

And one has to figure that when Mahomes lifted the Lombardi Trophy in the confetti-filled air a few months later, after being named MVP of Super Bowl LIV, somewhere up in the heavens Satch was smiling. 🍌

*Andrew Lawrence is an award-winning writer based in Beaufort, S.C., whose work has appeared in Sports Illustrated, Men's Health and The Guardian.*

# PIONEER VILLAGE

## PRE-NEGRO LEAGUES STARS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE GAME.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

**O**n April 20, 2013 – a century and two months after his death – an African-American baseball pioneer was memorialized with a homecoming ceremony in Cooperstown, the place where he had learned to play the game during his formative years.

Believed to be the first African American to suit up with a white professional baseball team – way back in the spring of 1878 – John “Bud” Fowler was feted with the naming of a street in his honor next to Doubleday Field. Additionally, a plaque denoting his trailblazing achievements was affixed to the brick wall near the ballpark’s entrance, just down the block from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

A man nearly forgotten by history finally had been remembered, fittingly during the same week as Major League Baseball’s annual celebration of Jackie Robinson’s historic debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Robinson’s courage in breaking the 20th-century color barrier is celebrated every year by MLB, as National and American League players all wear Jackie’s No. 42 during designated games in homage to his pioneering moment.

But Robinson’s monumental feat would

not have been possible without the paths blazed by determined men like Fowler. Long before Branch Rickey’s “Great Experiment,” and even before the formation of the Negro National League in 1920, black baseball flourished against daunting, racist odds.

The first documented game between



MILIO STEWART, JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Cooperstown High School baseball team members wore “Fowler” nameplates on their jerseys during the 2013 season in honor of Bud Fowler, who grew up in Cooperstown and later became one of the earliest African-American professional baseball players. The players dressed in uniform as the Village of Cooperstown dedicated “Fowler Way” on April 20, 2013.

African-American teams was played in 1859 – four years before President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery and six years before the conclusion of the Civil War. In the ensuing decades, players such as Fowler, Sol White, Frank Grant, Moses Fleetwood Walker and Rube Foster would take a bat to bigotry.

“The history of pre-Negro League baseball is lesser-known, but no less significant,” said Dr. James Brunson, a noted black baseball



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Bud Fowler (back row, center) played with several integrated teams, including a squad based in Keokuk, Iowa, before the color ban prohibited African-American players from participating in Organized Baseball.



scholar who has authored several seminal books on the subject. “Without the perseverance of numerous 19th-century and early 20th-century African-American players, managers and businessmen, the integration of baseball – and America for that matter – would have been delayed years, if not decades.”

## Fowler’s legacy

Fowler clearly was at the forefront of desegregation. A man of mystery – and many hats – his legacy includes not only his achievements as a pioneering player, but also as a flamboyant organizer, entrepreneur and marketer of African-American teams.

Born John W. Jackson in Fort Plain, N.Y., 25 miles northeast of Cooperstown, it is not known why he changed his name, though some historians surmise it was because he didn’t want his parents to stop him from pursuing a career in baseball at a time when there weren’t any prominent black pro teams. His father was a barber, a profession that gave the family middle-class status, and he taught Bud those skills in hopes he would follow in his footsteps. Throughout his life, Fowler made money on the side providing shaves and haircuts, but his main livelihood would come from baseball, a game he fell in love with in the 1860s after his family moved to Cooperstown.

A white amateur all-star team in Chelsea, Mass., brought him on as a pitcher when he was 20, and on April 24, 1878, he tossed a three-hitter in a 2-1 exhibition game victory against Boston, the reigning National League champs. Within weeks of that sterling performance, Fowler signed a professional contract with the Lynn, Mass., club in the International Association, one of the first two loosely defined minor leagues. That history-making, color-line breaking moment would mark the beginning of an odyssey that saw him play for 18 teams in 13 seasons, including one calendar year when he suited up for four-to-five different teams.

His nomadic career had nothing to do with his talent – he was a slick-fielding second baseman who batted .308 in more than 2,000 Organized Baseball at-bats – and everything to do with the color of his skin. Teammates often objected to playing with a black man, and opponents objected to playing against one.

Like the handful of other African Americans



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**Top:** Sol White’s groundbreaking 1907 book “History of Colored Base Ball” has proved to be an unparalleled source of information on African Americans who competed in the earliest days of professional baseball. **Bottom:** Frank Grant was regarded as one of the top baseball players of his time and starred for the Buffalo Bisons of the International League in the late 1880s.

on predominantly white teams in that era, Fowler was peppered with epithets and was frequently the target of pitches to the head and ribs along with spike-high slides. It got so bad that Fowler and his contemporary, Grant, reportedly designed wooden shin guards to protect themselves from “leg-slashing” base runners.

Despite the unrelenting bigotry, Fowler continued to play on integrated teams, even captaining one. But by 1899, color bans were firmly established throughout Organized Baseball.

“My skin is against me,” he wrote four years earlier. “If I had not been quite so black, I might have caught on (in the white majors)...

The race prejudice is so strong that my black skin barred me.”

This sentiment was echoed by *The Sporting Life*, a 19th-century baseball bible, which proclaimed: “With his splendid abilities, he would long ago have been on some good club had his color been white instead of black. Those who know say there is no better second baseman in the country.”

Fowler’s historical impact would go beyond his color-breaking moment. As Society for American Baseball Research member Brian McKenna wrote: “He was also one of the first significant black promoters, forming the heralded Page Fence Giants and other clubs and leagues. Wherever there was an effort to form a black league during the 19th century, Fowler could be found in the mix... white field managers and business managers throughout the country sought Fowler’s advice on fellow black players, at times hiring a man sight unseen for their roster on his say-so. Moreover, Fowler was the one who organized the first successful black barnstorming clubs, a subsequent staple of the industry.”

## Keeper of history

King Solomon White, better known as Sol White, also would wear many caps. He earned fame as a hard-hitting infielder, innovative manager and founder of some of the top independent all-black teams of the 19th century, including the powerhouse Philadelphia Giants, who often beat all-white major league teams in exhibition games and became the forerunners of the organized Negro Leagues.

But White’s greatest contribution – and a huge reason he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006 in a special vote by baseball historians – was the work he did with a pen rather than a bat.

“In 1907, White wrote the “History of Colored Base Ball,” the only known book about 19th-century black baseball. This invaluable, 128-page guide featured hundreds of photographs and numerous articles, including “How to Pitch,” by Negro Leagues founder Rube Foster, who was regarded as the “Black Christy Mathewson” after recording 44 consecutive victories for the Philadelphia Cuban X-Giants in 1902.

White contributed several articles, too, and in one of them wrote about a completely integrated game down the road: “Base ball



Moses Fleetwood Walker (back row, center) played for the Toledo Blue Stockings of the American Association in 1884. He was the last openly African-American player in Organized Baseball until Jackie Robinson debuted with the Montreal Royals in 1946.

should be taken seriously by the colored player, as honest efforts with his great ability will open an avenue in the near future wherein he may walk hand-in-hand with the opposite race in the greatest of all American games – base ball.”

Noted historian John Holway credits White, Foster and others for holding “black baseball together throughout 60 years of apartheid, making Jackie Robinson’s debut possible.” White, who died in 1955, lived long enough to see Robinson break baseball’s color barrier once and for all.

## Tales of Brave Ulysses

Among those who White played with and managed was Ulysses “Frank” Grant. Though he never appeared in the white majors, Grant is regarded by many historians as the greatest African-American player of the 19th century. Wrote White of his fellow 2006 Hall of Fame inductee: “Frank Grant... in those days, was the baseball marvel. His playing was a revelation to his fellow teammates, as well as spectators. In hitting, he ranked with the best and his fielding bordered on the impossible. Grant was a born ballplayer.”

As evidenced by his batting averages of .344, .353 and .346 during his three seasons as a second baseman with the Buffalo Bisons of

the International League from 1886-88, it was clear Grant would have excelled in the white majors had there not been a color ban. Though small in stature (5-foot-7, 155 pounds), Grant packed a wallop, and in 1888 had a league-high 11 home runs among his 36 extra-base hits while also stealing 23 bases. After Organized Baseball outlawed African-American players in 1889, Grant joined the Cuban Giants, and continued his diamond domination with black baseball’s preeminent teams until his retirement in 1903.

## The Moses Walker story

William Edward White is believed by some to be the first African American to play in the majors (1879). His mixed heritage and light complexion reportedly enabled him to pass himself off as a caucasian and avoid the racial prejudice future black players would encounter. His MLB career, though, lasted just one game.

Five years later, catcher Moses Fleetwood Walker joined the Toledo Blue Stockings and became the first to play in the majors openly as a black man. Walker was subjected to constant abuse from opponents, fans, the press and even some of his teammates. Blue Stockings pitcher Tony Mullane made no

secret of not wanting to play with Walker, routinely throwing pitches that weren’t signaled just to cross up his catcher. Despite being an avowed segregationist, Mullane conceded years later that Walker “was the best catcher I ever worked with.”

Injuries would limit Walker to just 42 games, and he was released before the end of the 1884 season, finishing with a .263 batting average, third-best on the team and 23 points above league average. His brother, Welday Walker, also played a handful of games for Toledo that year.

The man known as “Fleet” soon hooked on with the International League’s Newark Little Giants, and in 1887 teamed with pitcher George Stovey to form the first African-American battery in white professional baseball. Stovey won 35 games that season. Walker then spent the following two seasons with the Syracuse Stars before being released.

He would be the last African American to play in white professional leagues until Robinson suited up for the Montreal Royals, Brooklyn’s top farm club, in 1946. 📌

*Best-selling author Scott Pitoniak resides in Penfield, N.Y. His most recent book is “Forever Orange: The Story of Syracuse University.”*



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# DIAMOND CHARM

## FROM THE BLACK SOX TO THE ELITE GIANTS, BALTIMORE BOASTED A STORIED AND SUCCESSFUL HISTORY AS PART OF THE NEGRO LEAGUES.

BY CHARLIE VASCELLARO

In the waning days of professional baseball's Negro Leagues, an emerging young cross-handed batter burst on the scene – knocking a pair of home runs for the vagabond Indianapolis Clowns against the Philadelphia Stars.

The date was May 17, 1952 – Opening Day of the Negro American League season at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore.

It took less than a month for 18-year-old Henry Aaron to bat his way right out of the Negro Leagues, hitting .366 in 26 official league games for Indianapolis with five home runs, 33 RBI, 41 hits and nine stolen bases.

Five years after Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's racial barrier and with the subsequent departure of other African-American stars, the Negro Leagues were in decline. But for Aaron, they proved to be a viable avenue to the big leagues, and his brief appearance in the Charm City served as a final footnote to the city's lengthy Negro Leagues history.

Professional black baseball in Baltimore

pre-dates the organized Negro Leagues. The historical record reveals the city had two professional teams comprised of African-American players as far back as 1874. The Lord Hannibals and the Orientals played their

first game against each other at Newington Park that year, sharing the field with the white Lord Baltimore baseball club of the National Association. Baltimore was also one of four franchises in the brief Colored League of 1887 that also included teams from Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

Other professional black teams in Baltimore preceded the founding of Rube Foster's Negro National League in 1920, but the city's Negro Leagues history is largely defined by two teams and two eras: The Black Sox of the 1920s and the Elite Giants of the 1930s and '40s.

The Black Sox name was used in Baltimore years before its connection with the infamous World Series scandal involving the 1919 Chicago White Sox. In his seminal Baltimore baseball history book "Baseball in Baltimore: The First One Hundred Years," author Jim Bready cites the first version of the Black Sox as a traveling semi-pro team founded around 1913.

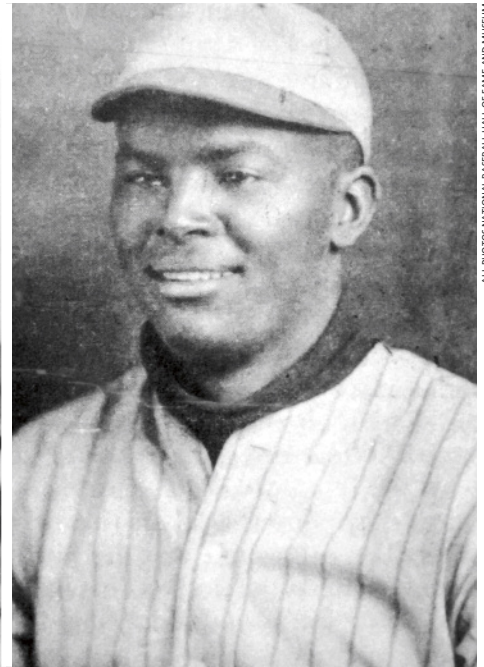
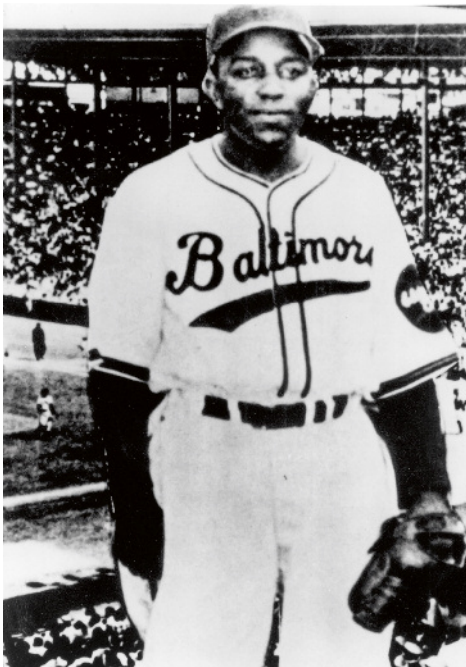
The team was originally owned by Charles P. Spedden – a white businessman, part-time bartender and clerk in the office of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad – and a white restaurant owner named George Rossiter. The Black Sox's home games were played at a place called Maryland Park – with broken seats, a leaky roof over the grandstand, non-functioning toilets and a field strewn with weeds.

Despite Maryland Park's less than adequate amenities, the Black Sox proved wildly popular



Baltimore Elite Giants catcher Robert Clarke (far right) runs the Homestead Grays' Buck Leonard back to third base as Baltimore's Felton Snow and the Grays' Josh Gibson converge at the bag during a 1944 game at Washington's Griffith Stadium. The Giants and Grays battled for Negro Leagues supremacy for several seasons in the 1940s.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



ALL PHOTOS NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Leon Day (left) was one of several future Hall of Famers who played for Baltimore teams in the Negro Leagues. Day, who many considered on par with Satchel Paige as a pitcher, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1995. Jud Wilson (center) powered Baltimore's Eastern Colored League team – the Black Sox – throughout the 1920s. Wilson was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2006. Legendary catcher Biz Mackey (right) was also part of the Hall of Fame's Class of 2006. He was a member of the Elite Giants team that relocated to Baltimore in 1938.

and fans flocked in droves to see the team in action while the owners re-invested profits in players' salaries.

Spedden and Rossiter began assembling a formidable squad with the signing of shortstop Buck Ridgley in 1915, while outfielder/cleanup hitter Blainey Hall joined the club in 1920. Perhaps the most significant addition, however, was fiery barrel-chested corner infielder and future Hall of Famer Jud “Boojum!” Wilson (nicknamed for the sound of his hard line-drive hits bouncing off outfield walls) in 1922.

Wilson spent his first nine pro seasons with the Black Sox, playing for the team through 1930 and anchoring what would come to be known as the Negro Leagues' version of the million-dollar infield – with second baseman Frank Warfield, shortstop Dick Lundy and third baseman Oliver Marcell.

The Black Sox struggled in their first season in the Eastern Colored League in 1923, finishing 19-30, but Wilson hit a solid .296.

The 1924 Black Sox were managed by future Hall of Famer Pete Hill – a 41-year-old outfielder in the twilight of his stellar 22-year career – and included legendary slugging shortstop John Beckwith, who paired with Wilson to form one of the Negro Leagues' greatest hitting tandems.

Beckwith hit .362 in 1924, while Wilson hit .365. Beckwith had another outstanding

season in 1925, hitting .407 with 12 homers and a 1.197 OPS.

Wilson mirrored that success, posting a .354 batting average and a .926 OPS. It was the type of season that would mark the consistency of his 24-year career and allow him to play prominent roles with the Homestead Grays, Pittsburgh Crawfords and Philadelphia Stars.

Beckwith, meanwhile, became one of the most powerful hitters in Negro Leagues history, of whom Babe Ruth once said: “Not only can Beckwith hit harder than any Negro ballplayer, but any man in the world.” He also had a notoriously fiery temper, often brawling with teammates, the opposition and umpires. He was traded by the Black Sox to Harrisburg midway through the 1926 season and played for 11 teams during his 17-year career.

In Beckwith's absence, the 1926 Black Sox struggled mightily, slipping to sixth place in the ECL with a 22-38 record. Wilson was his usual self, however, hitting .347 with 36 runs scored. He then hit an amazing .403 in 1927 with a .940 OPS as the Black Sox climbed to fourth place with a 34-36 record. But in 1928, the ECL season came to an abrupt close when the league disbanded approximately halfway through its schedule.

Under newly acquired manager and second baseman Warfield, the Black Sox jumped to the new Negro American League

in 1929 and captured the franchise's first championship by winning both the first and second halves of the season while compiling a 55-25 overall record.

The team was powered by 23-year-old right-handed pitcher Norman Yokely. Left fielder Rap Dixon led the way at the plate with a .386 batting average, while Wilson wasn't far behind, hitting .344.

There would be no World Series against the Negro National League champion Kansas City Monarchs in 1929, as the two leagues were basically at war while raiding each other's rosters. The Black Sox did, however, play a postseason barnstorming exhibition series against major league all-stars, winning six times and losing only twice. Yokely was credited with two wins while squaring off against Hall of Famer Lefty Grove.

The Negro American League disbanded for the 1930 season, but the Black Sox weren't idle, joining the six-team Eastern Independent Clubs and finishing with a 24-20-2 record. Slugging first baseman Mule Suttles spent a portion of the season with the Black Sox, his only time in Baltimore, hitting .370 and knocking four home runs in 46 at-bats over the course of 13 games. Suttles was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2006.

Meanwhile, Satchel Paige was just 23 when he touched down in Baltimore briefly

during that same summer – posting a 3-1 record with 22 strikeouts in 27 innings pitched. The Black Sox’s mostly nomadic campaign did include a bit of history: The first use of Yankee Stadium by African-American teams, a doubleheader against the New York Lincoln Giants on July 30, 1930.

In 1932, the Black Sox were purchased by Washington Senators’ Latin-American scout Joe Cambria and joined the East-West League in its only year of existence. Manager/shortstop Lundy led the way with a .367 batting average as the team went 29-26, finishing behind Detroit and Homestead.

The Black Sox rejoined the revived Negro National League in 1933, but only played in 31 league games before financial problems

ended the season. The ’34 campaign was even shorter, lasting just 13 games.

No Negro Leagues teams called Baltimore home over the next three years, but the Negro National League returned to Baltimore with the arrival of the Elite Giants (pronounced Eee-light) in 1938. Originally the Nashville Standard Giants, a semi-professional all-African-American team founded in 1920, it was renamed the Elite Giants in 1921 and joined the Negro National League in 1930.

The team’s principle investor, Tom Wilson, was an African-American nightclub owner in Nashville who moved the franchise to Cleveland in 1931 and back to Nashville in 1932 as a charter member of the Negro Southern League, then joined the new Negro National League in 1933. Struggling to stay in one place, the franchise moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 1935 and Washington, D.C., in 1936 before establishing a long-term presence in Baltimore.

Forty-year-old catcher Biz Mackey, regarded by his contemporaries as one of the greatest backstops in the Negro Leagues and all of professional baseball history, was a member of the first Baltimore Elite Giants and tutored fellow future Hall of Famer Roy Campanella, who signed with the team at the age of 16.

How good was Mackey? Homestead Grays manager and team owner Cumberland Posey chose him as his favorite catcher in Negro Leagues history – above one of his own players, the legendary Josh Gibson.

Baltimore baseball man and Hall of Fame manager John McGraw once said of Mackey: “There’s a great catcher, as good as any in baseball today.”

The Elite Giants finished in second place in 1938, behind the perennial powerhouse Homestead Grays. The next season, the Elites squeaked into the four-team playoffs before going on a memorable postseason run. They eliminated the Newark Eagles in a best-of-five series, advancing to meet the Grays – who had won the regular-season title – in the 1939 Negro National League Championship Series.

Homestead won Game 1, played at Philadelphia’s Parkside Field on Sept. 16, and the teams followed with a doubleheader the next day at Oriole Park in Baltimore. The Elites evened the series with a 7-5 victory, but Game 3 was declared a tie due to darkness. Baltimore then won the next two games, including a 2-0 victory at Yankee Stadium that wrapped up the series.

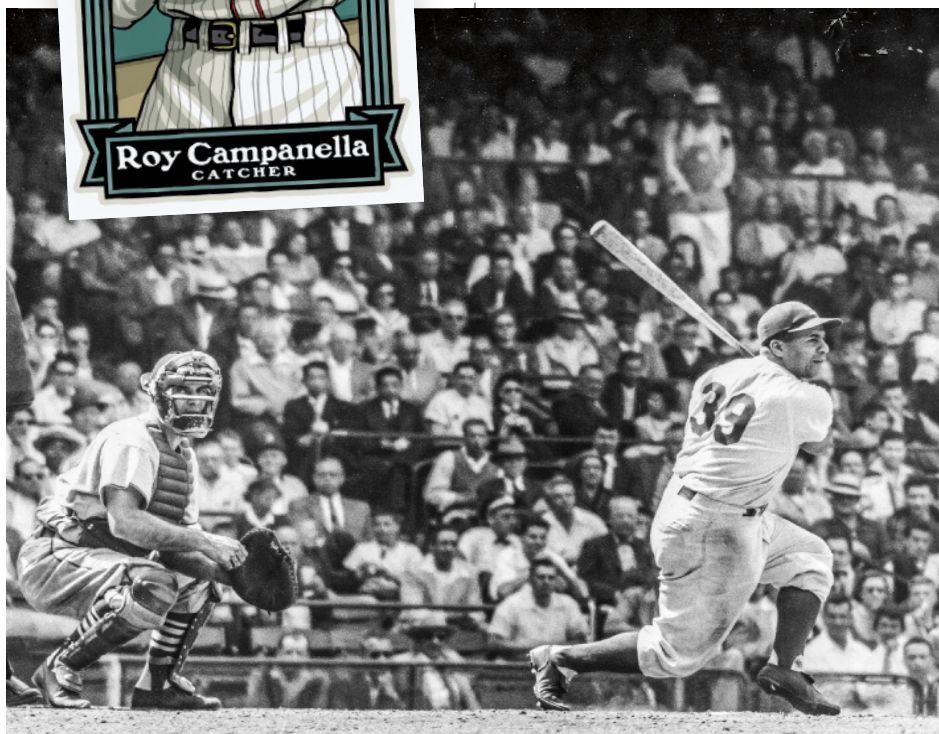
It was a crowning moment for both the franchise and the city, coming 10 years after the Black Sox’s one – and only – championship in 1929. Baltimore finished first in the league in 1942, but Homestead eliminated the Elites in the playoffs and went on to defeat the Kansas City Monarchs in the first NNL/NAL World Series.

The Elites would return to glory one more time, bookending the decade with the 1949 Negro American League championship, two years after the integration of Major League Baseball.

Members of the 1949 Elites included future Brooklyn Dodgers Joe Black and Jim Gilliam, who would win back-to-back National League Rookie of the Year honors in 1952 and 1953.

From the founding of the first Black Sox entry into the Eastern Colored League in the early 1920s to the post-integration teams that remained until the bitter end of segregated baseball, the city of Baltimore and its professional African-American teams and players were major contributors to the Negro Leagues’ lasting legacy. 📌

*Charles Vascellaro is a freelance writer from Baltimore.*



Before Roy Campanella won three National League Most Valuable Player Awards with the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1950s, he was a catching prodigy with the Baltimore Elite Giants of the 1930s and '40s – playing in official Negro Leagues games when he was only 15 years old.

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# KNOWING THE NUMBERS

## THE NEGRO LEAGUES RESEARCHERS AND AUTHORS GROUP BROUGHT TO LIFE STATISTICS ONCE THOUGHT LOST TO HISTORY.

BY ADRIAN BURGOS JR.

In 1994, Buck O’Neil introduced a new generation of baseball fans to the legends of the Negro Leagues via Ken Burns’ *Baseball* documentary on PBS. O’Neil’s storytelling held viewers spellbound as he recounted Satchel Paige’s antics on and off the pitcher’s mound, Josh Gibson’s home run prowess and James “Cool Papa” Bell’s speed, among other stories of Negro Leagues greats.

Stories passed along by Negro Leagues such as O’Neil have been a key way many fans learned about the Negro Leagues. These stories provide color and reveal the personality of players like Art “Superman” Pennington, Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe and Dick “Cannonball” Redding. But baseball – at its essence – has always been about numbers.

But for decades, no expansive database of Negro Leagues statistics existed.

That all changed, however, in the early years of the 21st century with the help of the Negro Leagues Researchers and Authors Group (NLRAG). These statistics allowed fresh insights



Negro Leagues legend Buck O’Neil, shown speaking at the 2006 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown, kept alive the stories of the Negro Leagues via oral histories – including his appearance in Ken Burns’ *Baseball* documentary in 1994.

into the action that occurred across baseball’s racial divide before Jackie Robinson launched what historian Jules Tygiel aptly referred to as “Baseball’s Great Experiment” in 1947.

### A game and history of numbers

Building on the important work of Retrosheet and “The Baseball Encyclopedia,” baseball-reference.com – launched in 2000 – has provided statistics of all those who performed in the major leagues. But the Negro Leagues’ past as revealed through statistics was not as readily accessible. This significant gap was addressed by the NLRAG study directed by Larry Lester, Larry Hogan and Dick Clark.

Long missing from the available historical record, Negro Leagues statistics complement the oral history and written history of the Negro Leagues. For Sean Forman, who founded baseball-reference, the addition of Negro Leagues statistics meant the website could provide a more complete history of baseball.

“The statistics gathered through the NLRAG project provide some context to a lot of the mystery that has often surrounded performance in the Negro Leagues,” Forman said.

### Getting to know Negro Leagues history

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of the founding of the Negro National League (NNL). The NNL and other leagues provided African Americans and many Latinos an opportunity to play professionally during the era Major League Baseball’s color line barred black players – roughly from the late 1880s through the 1940s. These leagues were the starting point for Paige, Gibson and Bell. The same can be said for Robinson, Roy Campanella and Orestes “Minnie” Miñoso, who began their careers in the Negro Leagues and pioneered racial integration in MLB.

But there were thousands of other talented African-American and Latino players in the Negro Leagues, many of whose names remained less familiar to the average baseball fan.

In 2000, the National Baseball Hall of Fame commissioned the NLRAG to conduct a study on the history of African-American baseball through funding provided by Major League Baseball. The NLRAG embarked on an



exhaustive study of black baseball unlike any previously conducted.

“We had a quality team assembled with a diverse group of expertise,” Lester said, in reflecting on the group of dedicated researchers and scholars brought together for this undertaking.

Conducted over a span of five years, the project revisited the black baseball circuits that were too often ignored by sportswriters who covered MLB and the daily newspapers for which they wrote.

The work of the NLRAG resulted in two significant products. First, the team produced a massive manuscript on the history of black baseball from the Civil War to the 1960s. An edited version of the written study became “Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues & The Story of African-American Baseball” (National Geographic, 2006).

The other product was an exhaustive database of Negro Leagues games covering 1920 to 1948. The first of its kind, the database resulted



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Andy Cooper was one of several Negro Leagues stars whose exploits were brought to light via the work of the Negro Leagues Researchers and Authors Group. Cooper was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2006 along with 16 other Negro Leagues legends.

from work done by a team of 25 researchers who went through more than 345 newspapers from towns across the United States to locate box scores of Negro Leagues games. This box score

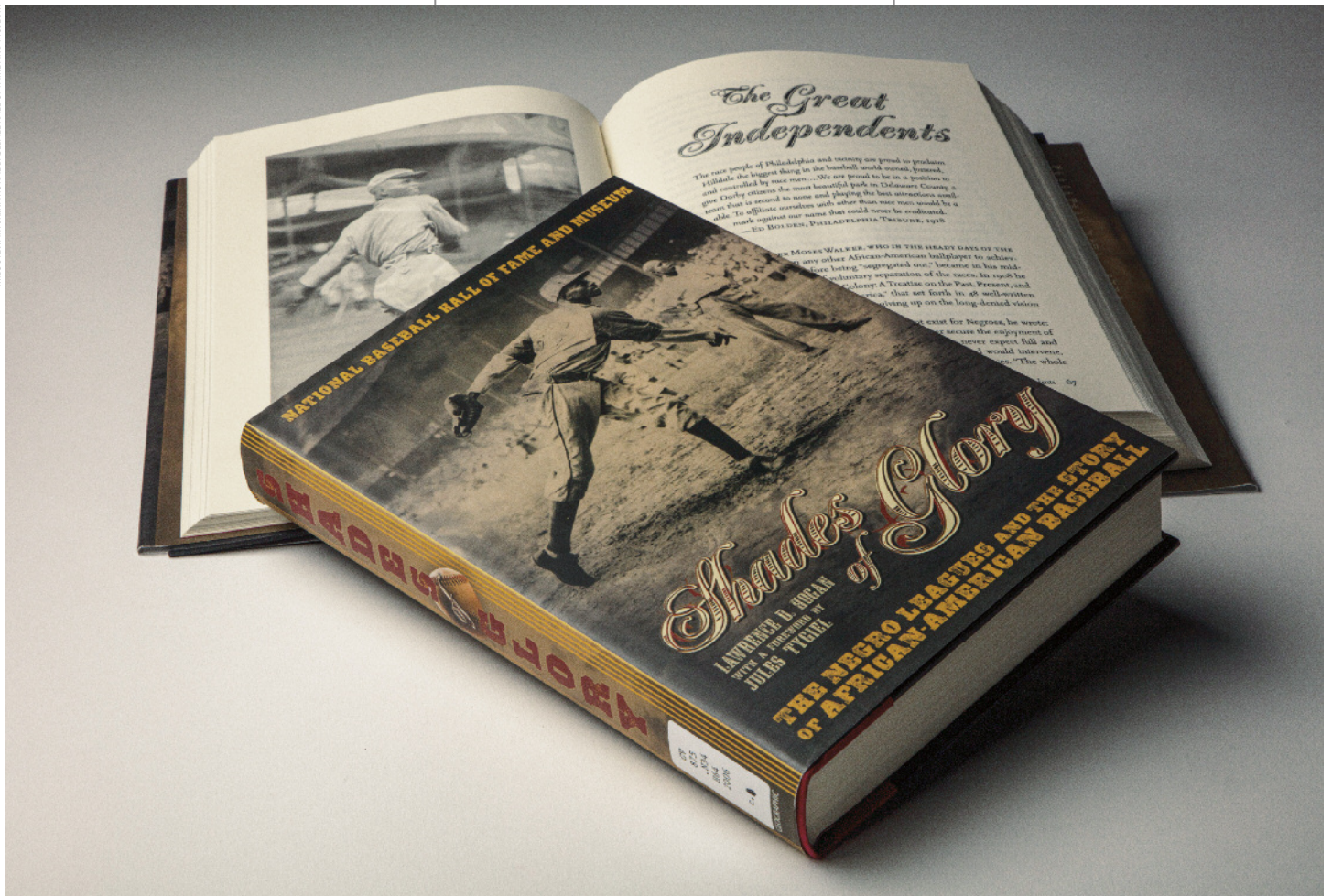
research became the basis for hitting and pitching statistics for more than 6,000 players.

The Negro Leagues database created by the NLRAG has provided another important way to know the black baseball past. Now posted on baseball-reference.com, it stands as the largest database of Negro Leagues statistics ever made publically available. Equally significant, the box score research conducted by the NLRAG rebuilt what might have been an otherwise lost statistical history.

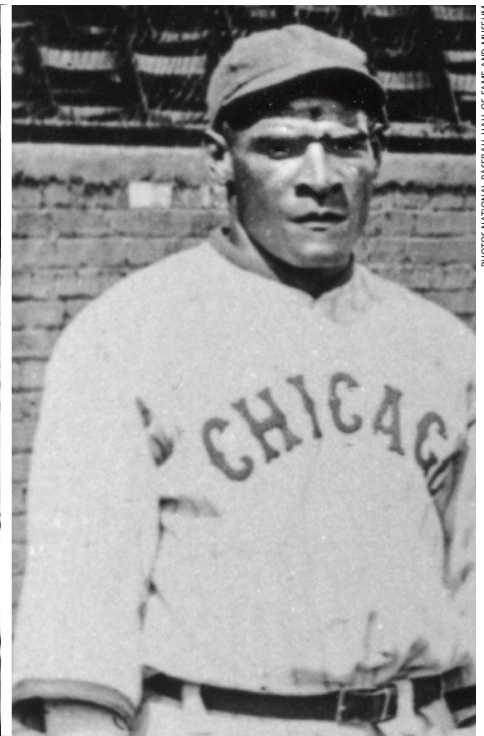
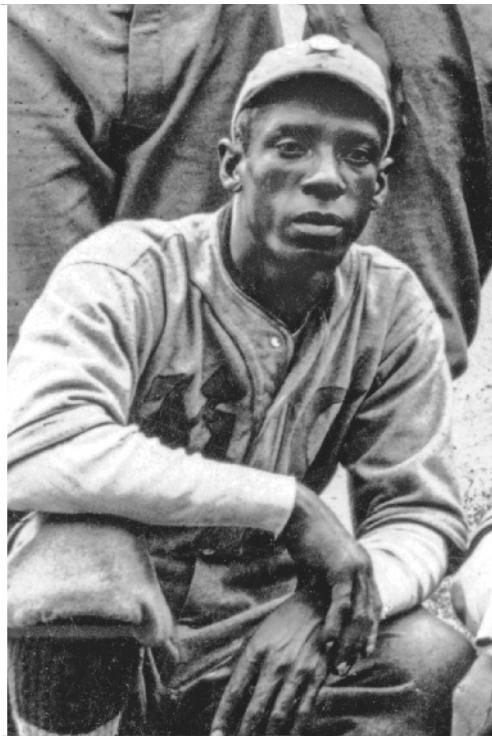
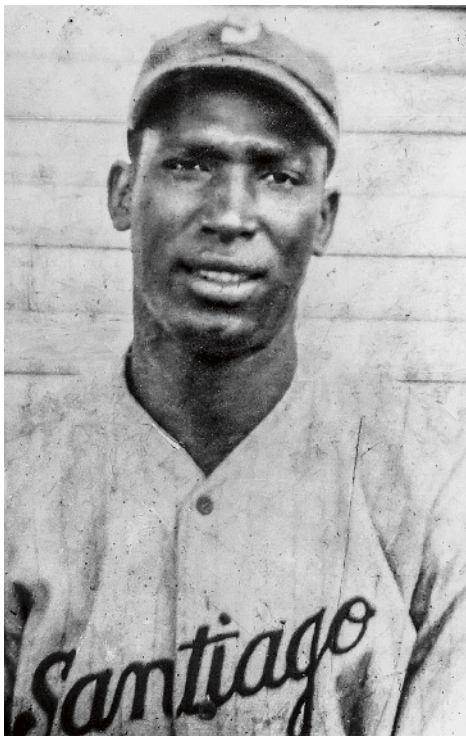
## Researching baseball's past

Negro Leagues history is an important part of baseball history. Black leagues were where African Americans could watch the excellent players who emerged from their communities. These leagues were also the most welcoming for Latinos coming from the Caribbean and Latin America – and was where greats like Martín Dihigo, José Méndez and Cristóbal Torriente got their chance to play professionally in the United States. Just as important, Negro

MILD STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



The efforts of the Negro Leagues Researchers and Authors Group (NLRAG) produced a massive manuscript on the history of black baseball dating from the Civil War to the 1960s, an edited version of which became the book “Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues & The Story of African-American Baseball,” released in 2006.



PHOTOS NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**Left to right:** Future Hall of Famers Martín Dihigo, José Méndez and Cristóbal Torriente were among the Latino standouts welcomed in the Negro Leagues during the decades when Major League Baseball prevented talented players from participating due to their skin color and racial status.

Leagues history reveals how baseball thrived in African-American and Latino communities despite racial segregation and MLB's color barrier that prevented talented players from participating due to their skin color and racial status.

For decades, the process of recovering black baseball history involved hours scouring newspapers available at local branch libraries, whether in print, microfilm or microfiche. Robert Peterson's "Only the Ball Was White" (Prentice Hall, 1970) was arguably the first book on the Negro Leagues that captured a wide audience. Other historians, including John B. Holway, James A. Riley and John M. Coates, followed, providing another part of the initial foundation of Negro Leagues research and history. Their writings inspired countless fans to learn more about black baseball and to also conduct research on Negro Leagues teams and players that passed through their towns.

Digitization of African-American newspapers has greatly facilitated the ability to research black baseball. Even still, the challenge for Lester and the rest of the NLRAG team was that official Negro Leagues games were often played in non-league towns and that black newspapers were only published once a week.

"The grant provided us the opportunity to



COURTESY SEAN FOREMAN

Sean Forman founded the go-to statistical website [baseball-reference.com](http://baseball-reference.com) in 2000. His pioneering database also features the work of the Negro Leagues Researchers and Authors Group, which produced a landmark study on Negro Leagues player statistics.

dig deeper into the newspapers and gather a significant amount of box scores," Lester remarked, in reflecting on the effort to develop the Negro Leagues statistical database.

Once completed, quite a few interesting revelations emerged from the NLRAG research.

"Some of these ballplayers were as great as the oral history," Lester said. "It validated

a lot of what we already knew."

Confirmation of impressions shared by Negro Leaguers in oral interviews was not the sole revelation, however. The statistics gathered "also revealed some players were better than what we knew them to be, such was the case with Andy Cooper, a great pitcher of the Detroit Stars," Lester said.

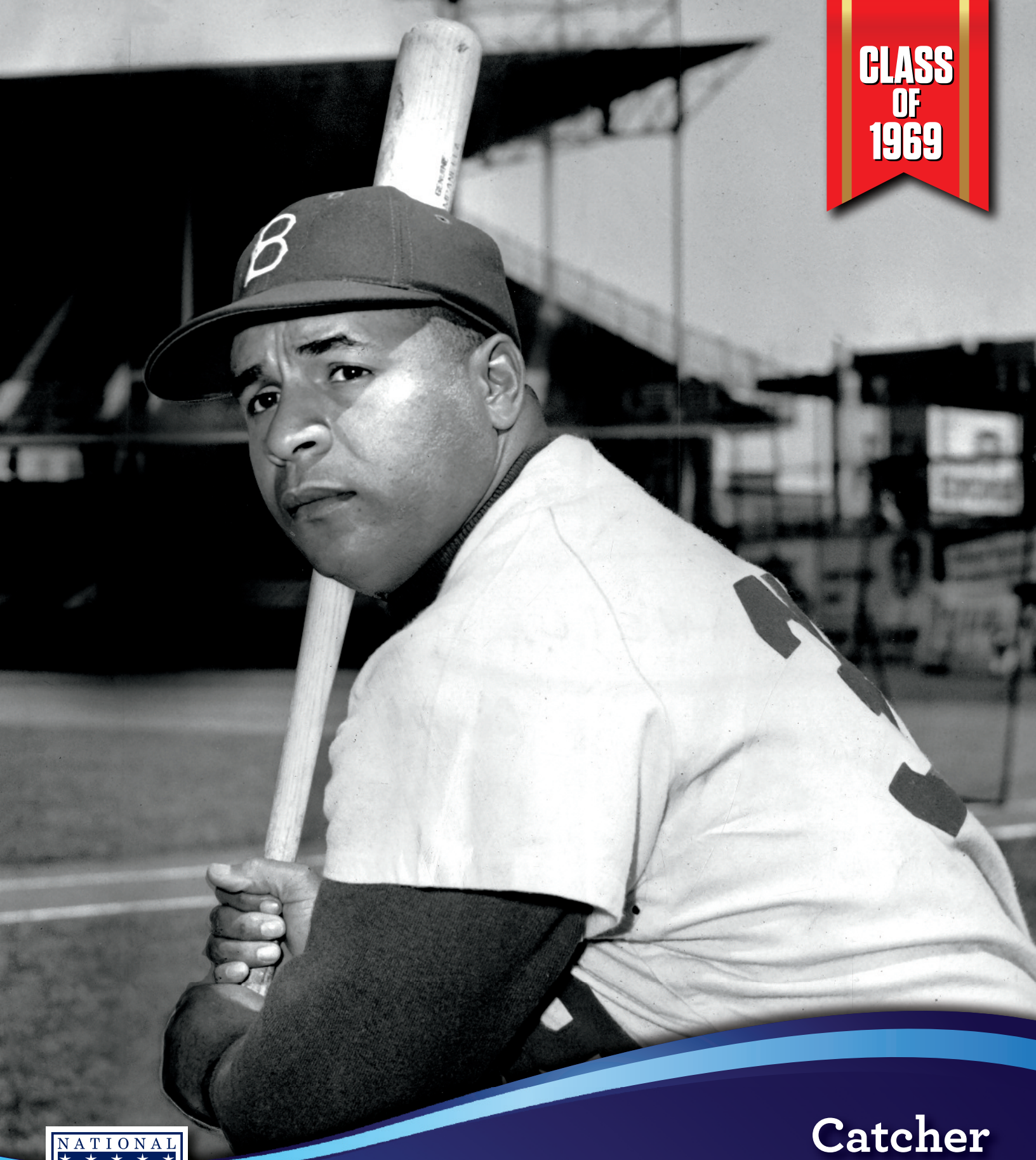
### A class like no other

The NLRAG findings inspired the Hall of Fame to call a special election on the Negro Leagues. Never before had the Hall possessed such a wealth of new research to aid its efforts to recognize the Negro Leagues – its players, executives and other contributors to black baseball history.

Convened in 2006, the Special Committee on Negro Leagues elected 17 individuals, including the first woman – Newark Eagles owner Effa Manley – to the Hall of Fame. The research conducted by the NLRAG was vital to that committee's deliberation. Equally significant, the statistical database created is now readily available to all and continues to shape what we know about the legends who performed in the Negro Leagues. 📖

*Adrian Burgos Jr. is a Professor of History at the University of Illinois.*

**CLASS  
OF  
1969**

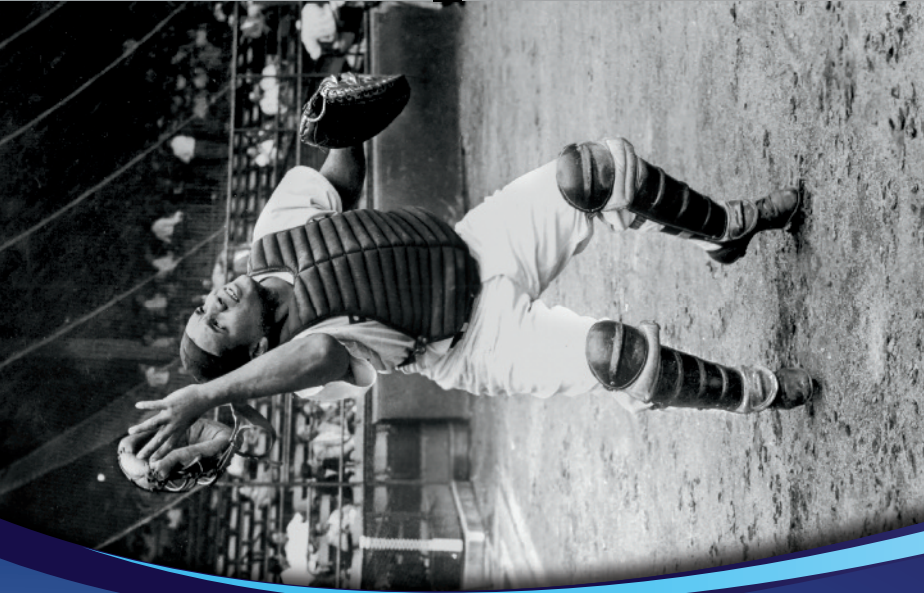


**Catcher**

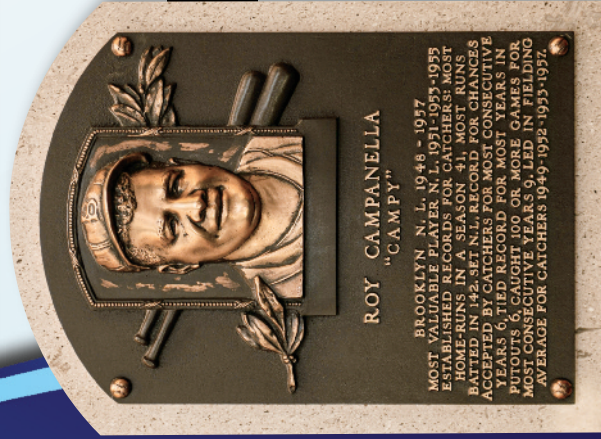
**ROY CAMPANELLA**

# ROY CAMPANELLA

Elected 1969 • Born: Nov. 19, 1921, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Died: June 26, 1993, Woodland Hills, Calif.  
 Batted: Right Threw: Right • Height: 5'9" Weight: 190  
 Played for: Washington Elite Giants (1937), Baltimore Elite Giants (1938-45), Philadelphia Stars (1494), Brooklyn Dodgers (1948-57)



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



Year	Team	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	BA	SLG
1948	BRD	83	320	279	32	72	11	3	9	45	3	36	.258	.416
1949	BRD	130	507	486	65	125	22	2	22	82	3	67	.287	.498
1950	BRD	126	494	437	70	123	19	3	31	89	1	55	.281	.551
1951	BRD	143	562	505	90	164	33	1	33	108	1	53	.325	.590
1952	BRD	128	533	468	73	126	18	1	22	97	8	57	.269	.453
1953	BRD	144	590	519	103	162	26	3	41	<b>142</b>	4	67	.312	.611
1954	BRD	111	446	397	43	82	14	3	19	51	1	42	.207	.401
1955	BRD	123	522	446	81	142	20	1	32	107	2	56	.318	.563
1956	BRD	124	461	388	39	85	6	1	20	73	1	66	.219	.394
1957	BRD	103	360	330	31	80	9	0	13	62	1	34	.242	.388
<b>10 Years</b>		<b>1215</b>	<b>4815</b>	<b>4205</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>.276</b>	<b>.500</b>

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • All bolded marks are league-leading totals • Bolded and italicized marks are major league-best totals  
**Awards & Records:** 3-Time National League Most Valuable Player • 8-Time All-Star • One of only two catchers, along with Johnny Bench, to record at least 140 RBI in one season

## DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ ... that Roy Campanella threw out 57.4 percent of runners trying to steal, the top mark in big league history?
- ★ ... that Campanella had more walks (533) than strikeouts (501) for his career?
- ★ ... that Campanella posted an OPS of 1.006 in 1953, the only catcher to play in at least 140 games in a season and top the 1.000 OPS mark?

## WHAT THEY SAY...

- ★ "More than one observer has likened Campanella's quickness behind the plate to that of a cat. He can pounce on bunts placed far out in front of the plate and he gets his throws away with no wasted motion. He had not only a rifle arm but an accurate one."  
 - 1975 J.G. TAYLOR SPINK AWARD WINNER TOM MEANY
- ★ "No one had more courage than Roy Campanella. To me, he was the greatest Dodger of them all."  
 - DODGERS PRESIDENT PETER O'MALLEY
- ★ "I loved Roy Campanella. I loved him like a brother."  
 - HALL OF FAMER TOMMY LASORDA

FRONT OF CARD: NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



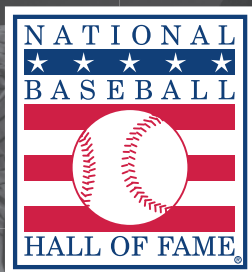
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# A Win for Equality

In 1925 in Wichita, Kansas, an African-American team defeated a team sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan.

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

**M**embers of the Ku Klux Klan possessed undeniable power throughout the early years of the 20th century – their anonymity secured by hoods and their actions backed by local law enforcement.

But on a Sunday afternoon on the first day of summer in 1925, the Klan suffered defeat at the hands of a group of African Americans armed with baseball bats. And gloves.

The loss occurred on a baseball diamond, Island Park to be specific, in Wichita, Kan., on June 21, 1925, when the all-black Wichita Monroviens – a barnstorming team – played a game against the KKK nine of Lodge No. 6.

The Monroviens, who had played two previous seasons independently as the Black Wonders, joined eight other teams from Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas in 1922 to form the Colored Western League. The Monroviens took their name from the capital of Liberia, founded in part by former slaves who had known the Klan's terror. Team alumni included catcher T. J. Young, pitcher Nelson Dean and third baseman Newt Joseph – all of whom eventually played for the Kansas City Monarchs, though none of them participated in the Monroviens' 1925 game against the Klan.

The Monroviens won the pennant in the Colored Western League's debut season, but that would be its only season. The league, troubled by financial challenges and infighting among team leaders, folded after one year.

But the Monroviens survived. The team

was owned and operated by the Monrovia Corporation, whose capital stock was valued at \$10,000. Run by a collection of African-American businessmen, it was a healthy enterprise.

The Monroviens owned their ballpark in the heart of Wichita's African-American neighborhood, which put them in charge of their schedule and in receipt of the gate – unheard of for ballclubs like theirs. The team became a leading philanthropic and social force in Wichita's black community, funding organizations like the Phyllis Wheatley Children's Home.

Without a league, the Monroviens resorted to barnstorming, playing black and white teams from Kansas and beyond. The team and its success – in 1923, they were 52-8 – became a rallying point and diversion for Wichita's 6,500 African Americans, a fifth of whom lived in poverty and all of whom lived under Jim Crow conditions.

Though Kansas had entered the Union 64 years earlier as a free state, in 1925 racial segregation still ruled. African Americans in Wichita could not order a sandwich at the Dockum Drug Store (where the first lunch counter sit-in would occur in 1958). Visiting black players could only stay in hotels designated for "coloreds." And at the movie theater, designated black sections reserved the best seats for white patrons.

The prevailing attitudes underlying segregation denied Wichita's African Americans – less than one-tenth of the city's total population – housing in certain neighborhoods, employment opportunities and equal education.

"The Ku Klux Klan way of thinking was the way of life for a black person in Kansas," said Phil Dixon, baseball historian and author of "Negro Baseball Leagues: A Photographic History."

In those times, the Monrovia ballpark at 12th and Mosley offered a sanctuary from the daily whips and scorns of discrimination. It was there "black Wichitans [found] a place to socialize and be comfortable among other blacks without feeling the stinging pain of racism," wrote scholar Jason Pendleton in "Jim Crow Strikes Out."

The Ku Klux Klan contributed to the persecution. Since its revival in 1915, the organization had grown in a decade to four million members nationwide, with an estimated 40,000 of those in Kansas and 6,000 in Wichita – almost one Klan member for every African American. Knights of the KKK were embedded in nearly every institution, from city governments to banks. Membership was so widespread that even Tom Baird, co-owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, joined the Klan.

The Klan saw itself as a protector of patriotic and Protestant ideals threatened by immigrants, Jews, Catholics and, of course, African Americans. The local Klavern asserted in the *Wichita Eagle* in 1922 that it "supported Jim Crow laws; the abolition of secret societies among Negroes; and no employment of Negroes under any circumstances."

Leading up to the baseball game played between the Klan and the Monroviens, there were a reported nine lynchings nationwide in the first six months of 1925.

"The Kansas Klan intimidated African Americans in its attempts to create a 'racially morally pure' state," Pendleton wrote.

William Allen White, editor of the *Emporia Gazette*, ran for governor in 1924 on an anti-Klan platform, calling out the secret society's campaign of terror and branding its members a "body of moral idiots." White lost his bid, but sentiment against the Klan had taken root. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled in January 1925 that the Klan was a sales organization – not a charitable entity – and barred it from doing business without a charter. The state turned down the Klan's application for a charter on June 3, 1925.

The Klan, which had tried to promote itself as good for society by donating money to the local hospital and giving away food baskets



The barnstorming all-black Wichita Monroviens defeated a team from the Ku Klux Klan in 1925 at Wichita's Island Park stadium.

to needy families, faced extinction in the state. Desperate to preserve itself, it may very well have agreed to play the all-black Monrovia team as a public relations ploy.

“On some level, it was a matter of proving superiority,” said Donna Rae Pearson, a Topekan librarian who researched the game for the Kansas State Historical Society. “The Klan figured, ‘We’re going to beat you because we’re superior beings.’”

The Monroviens certainly had their pride at stake, but their motivation was probably mostly financial. Their games against white teams always drew well, but a matchup against the Klan promised a large gate. They solicited their fans to attend the game to be played at the white ballpark on the point of Ackerman Island in the Arkansas River.

“There was racial pride on the line, but also money to be made,” Dixon said.

The *Wichita Beacon* announced: “Strangle

holds, razors, horsewhips and other violent implements of argument will be barred at the baseball game” – perhaps tongue in cheek, but, even still, such a comment hinted at the possibility of violence in the charged atmosphere between opponents of such extremities. To keep the game under control, the teams agreed on an impartial pair of umpires: “Irish” Garrety and Dan Dwyer, both white and Roman Catholic.

They must have done their job because there were no reports of violence in the stands or on the field during or after the game.

A heat wave driven by scalding winds and a temperature topping 100 degrees could not keep away the large number of fans of all races who filled Island Park – far more than attended the other three baseball games played elsewhere that day in Wichita. The tension throughout the first half of the game soared as high as the mercury, with

the score tied, 1-1, through five innings.

Perhaps the heat wilted the pitchers, because the game soon turned into an explosion of runs, the lead going back and forth – the fate of the two teams and their fans hanging in the balance – until the Monroviens won, 10-8.

The Monroviens’ victory did not eradicate prejudice or eliminate segregation, but for one day at the ballpark, the black community could exult in finishing on top. And, in the days that followed, the Monroviens could take pride in the fact that they had done their own part in ushering the Klan out of Kansas and cleansing their state of the organization’s unbridled bigotry. 📌

*John Rosengren is a freelance writer from Minneapolis and the author of “The Fight of Their Lives: How Juan Marichal and John Roseboro Turned Baseball’s Ugliest Brawl into a Story of Forgiveness and Redemption.”*



# More Pride, More Passion

The Museum's exhibit dedicated to the African-American baseball experience will receive a fresh look in 2020.

BY GABRIELLE AUGUSTINE

**P**ride and Passion, a permanent exhibit located on the second floor of the Museum, focuses on the history of the African-American baseball experience.

Originally opened in 1997 and re-curated in 2005, it was the first exhibit in the Museum to explore the relationship between baseball and American history.

In 2020, the Museum is again updating this popular exhibit that has engaged visitors for parts of four decades.

Organized chronologically, *Pride and Passion* initially featured two parallel timelines running through the exhibit beneath the artifact cases. One of the timelines focused on major events in black baseball, while the other chronicled moments of American history related to civil rights, illustrating how the two subjects intertwined and affected one another.

This spring, the National Baseball Hall of Fame will unveil a new timeline, combining these major moments of African-American history into a single linear route spanning nearly 200 years, from the introduction of the Underground Railroad to the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. By continuing the timeline to modern day, the exhibit emphasizes that the history of African Americans in baseball continues — and did not stop when Jackie Robinson broke the major leagues' color barrier.

While there is no doubt that Robinson stepping onto a major league field on April 15, 1947, is considered one of the most important moments in the civil rights movement, acceptance of integration did not happen overnight in America. As noted in the new exhibit timeline, it was not until the 1950s that schools were desegregated. The 1960s saw the first popularly elected African-American

ILLUSTRATION BY DAN DANTON

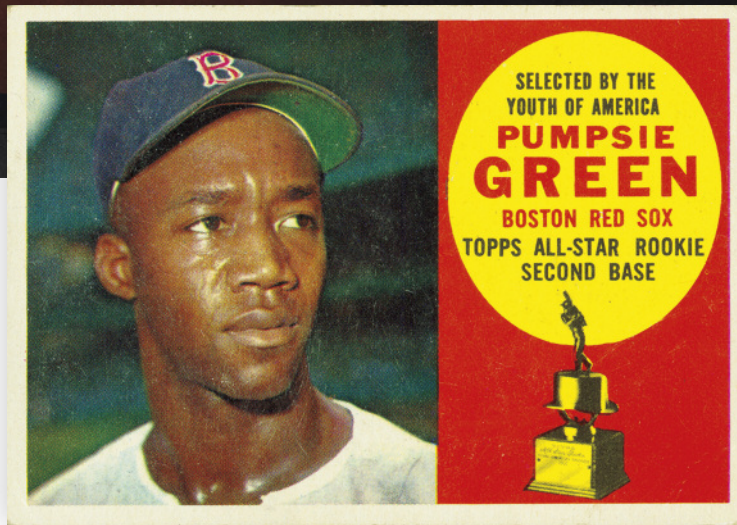


MILO STEWART JR. NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



The Museum's *Pride and Passion* exhibit has been a fan-favorite for decades.





United States Senator, Edward Brooke (R-MA), and first African-American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, selected for their respective offices. General Colin Powell became the first black Secretary of State in 2001, and seven years later Barack Obama made history as the first African-American President of the United States.

The new timeline also will demonstrate how baseball was reluctant to change. It took more than a decade after Robinson broke the color barrier for the last big league club to integrate

(Pumpsie Green debuted with the Red Sox in 1959). In the world of baseball operations, Buck O'Neil was hired by the Chicago Cubs as the first African-American coach in 1962, but it was not until 1993 that Bob Watson was hired as the first black general manager.

With these moments as just some of the highlights featured in *Pride and Passion's* updated timeline, many entries will have an accompanying graphic or photo related to that moment in time. Examples include a photograph of the 1924 Kansas City Monarchs

**Above:** The Museum's *Pride and Passion* exhibit is being redesigned to include an updated and expanded timeline of African-American history. **Left:** Though Jackie Robinson broke big league baseball's color barrier in 1947, the majors weren't fully integrated until Pumpsie Green joined the Red Sox in 1959. The ongoing story of the African-American baseball experience is told in the Museum's *Pride and Passion* exhibit.

in the first Negro League World Series and the newspaper headline in 1997 when Commissioner Bud Selig retired uniform No. 42 throughout all of baseball in honor of Jackie Robinson.

The updated timeline will weave together major American civil rights events with key moments in African-American baseball history that are discussed throughout the exhibit's labels and artifact cases. And just as the story continues to evolve, so will *Pride and Passion*. 📌

*Gabrielle Augustine is a curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*

## Weekend Getaway

The Hall of Fame Class of 2020 will be inducted July 26 in Cooperstown.

BY CRAIG MUDER

**L**arry Walker made his first visit to Cooperstown in 2020 more than five months prior to Induction Sunday.

And the butterflies were already nesting in his stomach.

“I’m kind of trembling inside right now,” said Walker during his Orientation Visit in February. “I feel like I’m shaking. Nothing seems right about it right now. It really doesn’t.”

But by the time the July 26 *Induction Ceremony* arrives, Walker will stride onto the stage on the grounds of Cooperstown’s Clark Sports Center along with his fellow Class of 2020 members Derek Jeter and Ted Simmons. He’ll turn around and see more than four dozen of the game’s icons – the returning Hall of Famers – on stage to honor him.

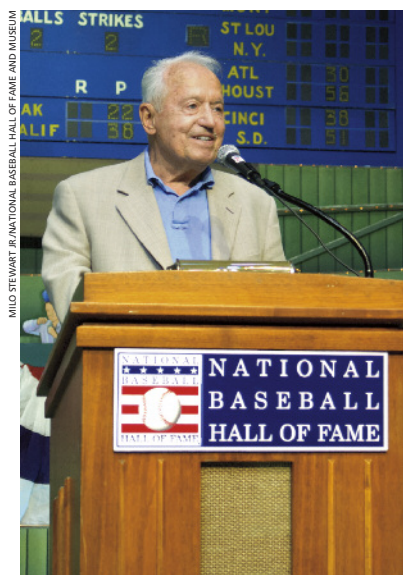
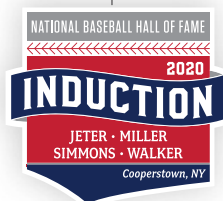
It will all seem right by then.

The Class of 2020, comprised of Jeter, Simmons, Walker and the late Marvin Miller, will be inducted at 1:30 p.m. July 26 in front of thousands of fans in Cooperstown and a national television audience on MLB Network.

The 2020 award winners will also be honored during the July 24-27 Hall of Fame Weekend. Ford C. Frick Award winner Ken Harrelson, who spent parts of four decades calling Chicago White Sox games, will deliver remarks at the Hall of Fame *Awards*

*Presentation*, which will be held at 4:30 p.m. July 25 at Cooperstown’s historic Doubleday Field. The late Nick Cafardo, whose brilliant work covering the Red Sox graced the pages of *The Boston Globe* for 30 years, will be honored with the Baseball Writers’ Association of America’s J.G. Taylor Spink Award for writers.

Hall of Fame Weekend events will also include the July 25 *Parade of Legends* on Main Street and the July 27 *Legends of the Game*



Marvin Miller (left) and Ted Simmons (right) were elected to the Hall of Fame in December by the Modern Baseball Era Committee. Simmons continued a Hall tradition by autographing the future location of his Hall of Fame plaque during his Feb. 27 Orientation Visit.

### Plan your trip to Cooperstown

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has teamed up with Sports Travel and Tours to offer baseball fans a one-stop opportunity to purchase Induction Weekend travel packages. For more information or to plan a trip to Cooperstown, please call 1-888-310-HALL (4255). Membership participants receive a 5% discount on all their baseball travel packages.

### Accommodations

Accommodation information is available through [thisiscooperstown.com/lodging](http://thisiscooperstown.com/lodging) and through the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce at (607) 547-9983. For driving directions from major cities, area cities and local airports, visit the directions page at the Hall of Fame’s website: [baseballhall.org/visit](http://baseballhall.org/visit).

### Reserved seating for the Induction Ceremony

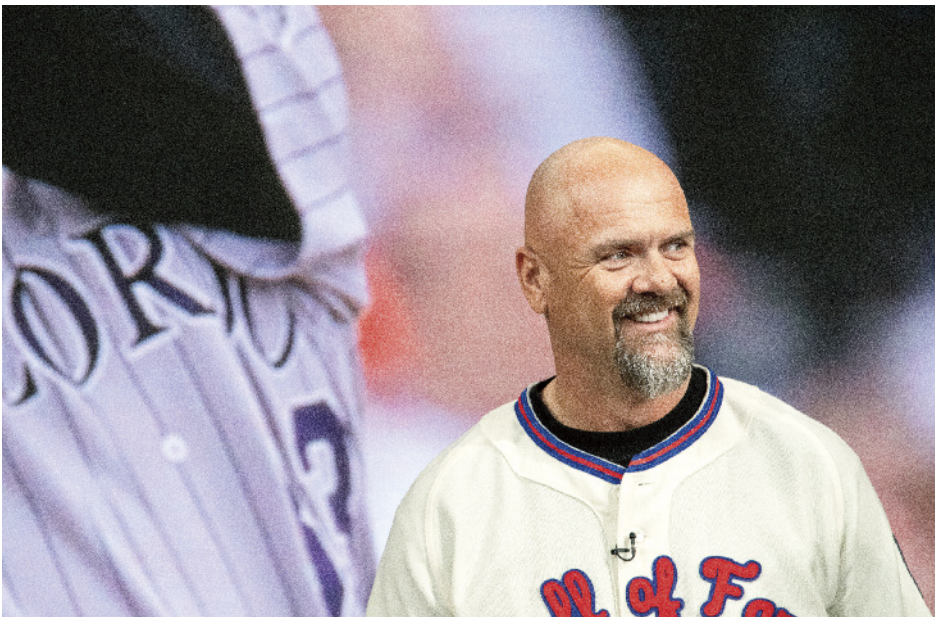
To learn more about reserved seating for the *Induction Ceremony* through the Museum’s Membership Program at the Contributor, President’s or Benefactor levels, visit [baseballhall.org/join](http://baseballhall.org/join) or call (607) 547-0397.

*Roundtable* – featuring the living members of the Class of 2020 – on the grounds of the Clark Sports Center.

Admission to the *Induction Ceremony*, the *Awards Presentation* and the *Parade of Legends* is free and open to the public. The *Legends of the Game Roundtable* is open to participants in the Hall of Fame’s Membership Program.



MILIO STEWART / NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



MILIO STEWART / NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**Top:** Derek Jeter laughs during an interview at MLB Network on Jan. 22 in Secaucus, N.J. Jeter was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. **Bottom:** Hall of Famer Larry Walker stands beside an image of himself as a player with the Colorado Rockies during an MLB Network appearance on Jan. 22. Walker, along with the rest of the Class of 2020, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 26 in Cooperstown.

Walker, who played 17 seasons for the Expos, Rockies and Cardinals, is the second Canadian-born Hall of Fame electee, following Fergie Jenkins in 1991.

Jeter, who played 20 seasons with the Yankees, is a five-time World Series champion and 14-time All-Star.

Walker and Jeter were elected by the BBWAA in January.

Simmons, an eight-time All-Star catcher who played 21 seasons with the Cardinals, Brewers and Braves, was elected to the Hall of Fame in December along with Miller by the Modern Baseball Era Committee. Miller served as the executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association from 1966-82 and helped change the business of baseball through collective bargaining agreements and the advent of free agency.

The Hall of Fame consists of 333 elected members, and more than 50 Hall of Famers are expected to return to Cooperstown for Hall of Fame Weekend, with the full list of returnees to be announced in early July, to honor the Class of 2020.

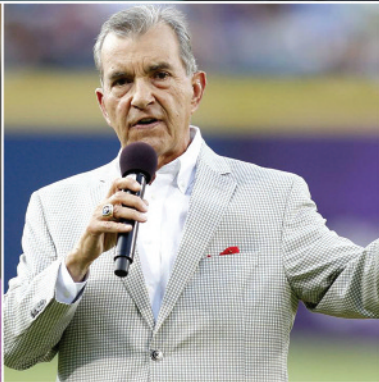
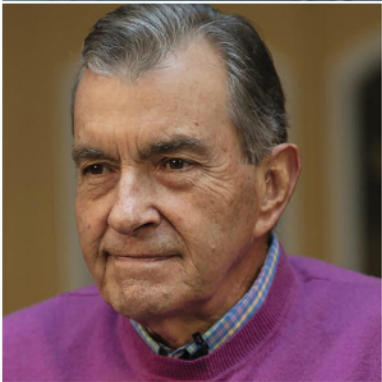
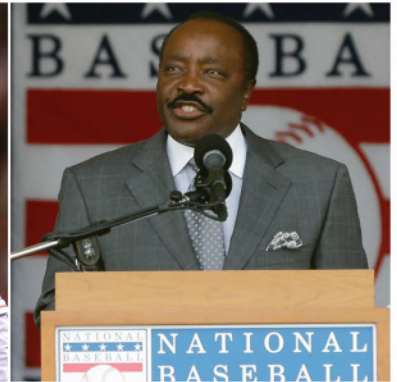
Hall of Fame Weekend begins on Friday, July 24, with Ozzie Smith and Hall of Famer guests hosting a morning experience in a fundraiser for the Hall of Fame's educational programs. For the 19th year, PLAY Ball returns as "Players, Legends And You" start the day with an interactive meet and greet at 8 a.m.

PLAY Ball features over two hours of non-stop interaction, including personalized instruction and the chance to turn double plays. Each participant receives time on the field with these baseball legends, as well as a personalized photo and special mementos of the occasion. Prior to the on-field activity, participants and Hall of Famers will share a special breakfast in the Hall of Fame's Plaque Gallery. This event is open to fans of all ages. Interested participants can register by calling the Membership Department at (607) 547-0385.

Additional features of Hall of Fame Weekend include special Museum hours and commemorative Hall of Fame Weekend merchandise available at the Museum Store. For more information on Hall of Fame Weekend, please visit [baseballhall.org/HOFW](http://baseballhall.org/HOFW). 📌

*Craig Muder is the director of communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*

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# HALL of FAME STARTING NINE

The Must-See Artifacts from Your Team



The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's collection of more than 40,000 three-dimensional pieces contains artifacts that tell the story of the game's legendary players, moments and triumphs. For a limited time through December 2020, the Museum will share some of those memorable artifacts through a new experience: *Starting Nine*.

Featuring nine must-see artifacts from each of the 30 current MLB franchises, *Starting Nine* will be showcased in each of the six issues of *Memories and Dreams* in 2020. This issue highlights the NL East. Visit [baseballhall.org/nine](http://baseballhall.org/nine) to learn more about your team's Starting Nine.



## National League East



### HE WORE IT WELL

Henry Aaron finished the 1973 season with 713 career home runs, then waited all winter for his appointment with destiny.

In Aaron-like, workmanlike fashion, the Braves slugger quickly ended the drama just four games into the 1974 campaign.

On April 8, 1974, Aaron's fourth-inning home run off the Dodgers' Al Downing gave him 715 for his career and sent him past Babe Ruth for first place on baseball's all-time list. The homer came on the heels of an Opening Day blast against the Reds' Jack Billingham that left Aaron tied with Ruth.

After sitting out the Braves' second game of the three-game set with the Reds on April 6, Aaron returned to the lineup April 7 and went 0-for-3, setting the stage for the Braves' first home game of the year the following night against the Dodgers.

Aaron drew a walk leading off the bottom of the second inning, leaving the sellout crowd of 53,775 at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium restless. Aaron quickly scored on a double by Dusty Baker, giving the Braves a 1-0 lead.

The Dodgers, who would go on to win the National League pennant in 1974, took a 3-1 lead in the top of the third inning. But in the bottom of the fourth, Darrell Evans reached base on an error by Dodgers shortstop Bill Russell to lead off the frame. Aaron followed by hitting a 1-0 pitch from Downing over the left-center field wall to tie the game – and surpass Ruth.

The fans erupted into cheers. Two of them, Britt Gaston and Cliff Courtenay, jumped onto the field from the first base side and jogged with Aaron soon after he passed second base, congratulating him as millions of others wished they could.

The jersey Gaston and Courtenay patted – the one that Aaron was wearing – is a part of the Hall of Fame's collection in Cooperstown.

## ATLANTA BRAVES

- 1 Hank Aaron uniform from home run No. 715
- 2 David Justice bat from game-winning home run in Game 6 of 1995 World Series
- 3 Beanpot fan badge from 1897
- 4 Bobby Cox cap from win No. 2,000 on Sept. 29, 2004
- 5 Joe Adcock bat from four-home run game on July 31, 1954
- 6 Tom Glavine spikes from 1995 World Series when he was named MVP
- 7 Chipper Jones jersey from final season of 2012
- 8 Greg Maddux spikes from 1995 Cy Young Award-winning season
- 9 John Smoltz jersey from 3,000th strikeout game on April 22, 2008



## MIAMI MARLINS

- 1 Craig Counsell spikes from scoring winning run in Game 7 of 1997 World Series
- 2 Liván Hernández jersey from Game 1 of 1997 World Series
- 3 2003 World Series ring
- 4 Kevin Brown cap from no-hitter on June 10, 1997
- 5 Giancarlo Stanton batting helmet with face guard from 2016
- 6 Juan Pierre spikes from 600th stolen base on May 2, 2013
- 7 Chris Volstead cap from Marlins last game as Florida Marlins on Sept. 28, 2011
- 8 Ichiro Suzuki jersey from 3,000th hit on Aug. 7, 2016
- 9 Tim Lincecum batting helmet from 2002 as the last player to wear flapless helmet

ALL PHOTOS BY TIMMO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



1

## SPIKE TV

NBC Sports' Bob Costas looked into his crystal ball in the bottom of the 11th inning of Game 7 of the 1997 World Series and saw the future.

"He's without a hit tonight," said Costas, referring to Marlins batter Craig Counsell as he faced an 0-and-1 count from the Indians' Charles Nagy. "But he could emerge from this game as one of its heroes."

Counsell, the Florida Marlins' second baseman, had already tied the game in the bottom of the ninth inning with a sacrifice fly. Two innings later, he would score the game's winning run - delivering a World Series title to South Florida in just the Marlins' fifth season of play.

With Bobby Bonilla on first base and one out in the 11th, Counsell dribbled a 1-2 pitch to the left of Cleveland second baseman Tony Fernández. The ball rolled under Fernández's glove for an error, sending Bonilla to third base. After an intentional walk to Jim Eisenreich loaded the bases, Bonilla was forced out at home plate on a Devon White ground ball to Fernández at second - sending Counsell to third.

Two pitches later, Edgar Rentería smacked a liner up the middle, scoring Counsell and sending most of the 67,204 fans at Pro Player Stadium into a frenzy.

The spikes Counsell wore when he crossed the plate are on display in the Hall of Fame's *Autumn Glory* exhibit.



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## 10 FROM 19

With one out in the top of the sixth inning, Cito Gaston of the San Diego Padres hit a Tom Seaver pitch into the glove of the New York Mets' Art Shamsky in right field.

Ten batters later, no other San Diego batter had managed to hit another fair ball against the New York ace. And when the game was over, Seaver walked off the Shea Stadium mound with 19 strikeouts and a National League pitching masterpiece.

On April 22, 1970, Seaver authored a two-hitter against the Padres for a 2-1 win. He fanned 19 of the 31 batters he faced, including the last 10 in a row.

After Gaston's flyout, Seaver struck out Al Ferrara - whose second-inning home run accounted for the Padres' only run on the day - to end the inning. Seaver then struck out Nate Colbert, Dave Campbell and Jerry Morales in the seventh, and followed that by setting down Bob Barton, Ray Webster and Ivan Murrell in succession in the eighth. Van Kelly and Gaston fanned for the first two outs in the ninth - and Ferrara ended the game as the victim of Seaver's 19th strikeout.

In winning the game, Seaver became the first victorious pitcher to strike out 19 batters in a nine-inning game. Steve Carlton - like Seaver, another future Hall of Famer - had set the record with 19 strikeouts in a nine-inning game in 1969, but that effort came in a 4-3 loss to the Mets.

Seaver finished the 1970 season with 283 strikeouts to go along with an 18-12 record. In the years since, Roger Clemens (twice), Kerry Wood and Max Scherzer have all struck out 20 batters in a nine-inning game. But no one has come closer than two strikeouts away from Seaver's 10 straight punchouts.

Seaver's cap from his record-setting game is on display in the Museum's *Whole New Ballgame* exhibit.

Seaver finished his career with 3,640 strikeouts, sixth on the all-time list. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1992.



## NEW YORK METS

- 1 Tom Seaver cap from 19-strikeout game on April 22, 1970
- 2 Casey Stengel retired No. 37 circle from Shea Stadium
- 3 Pete Alonso batting gloves from his record 53rd home run as a rookie on Sept. 28, 2019
- 4 Tommie Agee glove from 1969 World Series
- 5 Pedro Martínez jersey from 3,000th strikeout on Sept. 3, 2007
- 6 Dwight Gooden jersey from 1984 NL Rookie of the Year season
- 7 David Wright helmet from final game on Sept. 29, 2018
- 8 Ball thrown by Johan Santana in first no-hitter in Mets history on June 1, 2012
- 9 Ray Knight helmet from 1986 World Series when he was named MVP



## PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

- 1 Steve Carlton glove from lefty strikeout record on July 6, 1980
- 2 Phillie Phanatic costume
- 3 Brad Lidge cap from final out of 2008 World Series
- 4 Sam Thompson trophy presented for being most popular player of 1895
- 5 Eric Bruntlett jersey from unassisted triple play on Aug. 23, 2009
- 6 Trophy celebrating Chuck Klein as 1932 National League MVP
- 7 Jimmy Rollins spikes from 2007 when he became the fourth player with 20 triples, 20 steals and 20 homers in one year
- 8 Mike Schmidt bat used during his 1980 NL MVP season
- 9 Ball thrown by Roy Halladay during his May 29, 2010, perfect game

ALL PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



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## CARLTON LEFT ALL OTHERS BEHIND

On the day Steve Carlton moved to the top of the list of left-handed strikeout artists, only four pitchers in major league history had ever reached the 3,000-K mark.

Carlton, whose 2,833rd strikeout came against the Cardinals' Tony Scott on July 6, 1980, would one day join that elite club and – for a time – hold the all-time record.

Yet on the afternoon that Lefty set the standard for southpaws, large strikeout totals were far from common. Carlton's record-setting strikeout bumped Mickey Lolich from the top spot, and he finished the day with seven strikeouts in the Phillies' 8-3 victory, giving him 2,836 Ks for his career – then seventh all time.

The Astros' Nolan Ryan had joined the 3,000-strikeout club just two days earlier, and only Walter Johnson (3,508), Gaylord Perry (3,218) and Bob Gibson (3,117) ranked ahead of Ryan at the close of play on July 6, 1980.

At 35 years of age, Carlton was en route to one of his best seasons. The win over the Cardinals improved his record to 14-4, and Carlton would win 10 more games that year to finish 24-9 with 286 strikeouts en route to his third NL Cy Young Award. He also picked up the victory in Game 6 of the 1980 World Series against the Royals, the contest that clinched Philadelphia's first-ever world championship.

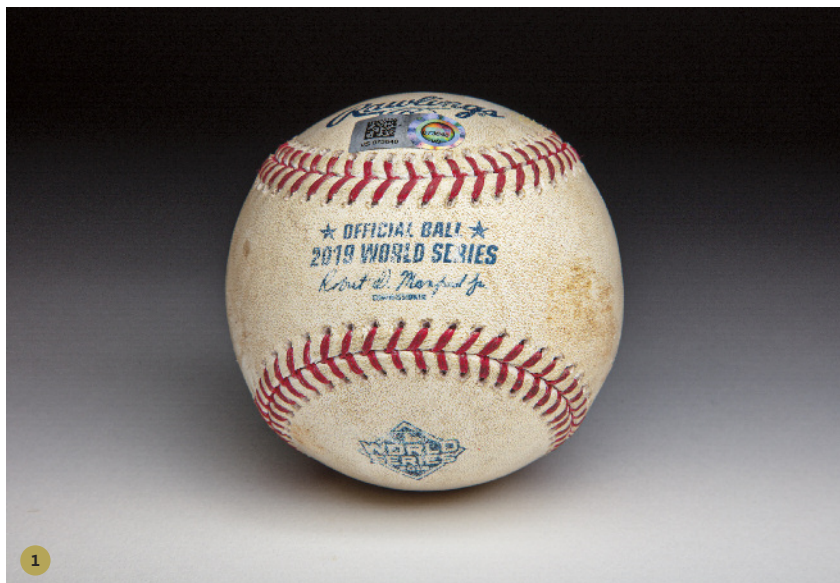
Carlton, who reached the 3,000-K mark early the following season, would go back and forth with Ryan for first on the all-time list in 1983 before Ryan eventually took command in the latter years of the decade. Ryan finished his career with what remains an MLB-record 5,714 strikeouts, while Carlton totaled 4,136.

Randy Johnson, who amassed 4,875 strikeouts, eventually passed Carlton on the all-time list for lefties; Carlton remains second on that list and fourth among all pitchers.

But on that July day in 1980, Carlton – with his nearly unhittable slider – stood alone at the top. His glove from that game is on display in the Museum's *One for the Books* exhibit.







## WASHINGTON NATIONALS

- 1 Ball hit by Howie Kendrick for go-ahead home run in Game 7 of 2019 World Series
- 2 Bryce Harper bat from three-home run game on May 6, 2015
- 3 Walter Johnson uniform worn in final years of his Senators career
- 4 Stephen Strasburg jersey from Game 6 of the 2019 World Series
- 5 Juan Soto jersey worn during 2018 rookie season
- 6 Pete Rose Expos cap worn June 29, 1984, when he played in his record 3,309th game
- 7 Andre Dawson Hall of Fame plaque with Expos logo
- 8 Max Scherzer cap from 20-strikeout game on May 11, 2016
- 9 Dennis Martínez Expos jersey worn during his perfect game on July 28, 1991

## CLANGING INTO HISTORY

Will Harris came set to the belt for his 0-and-1 offering to Washington's Howie Kendrick, and Astros catcher Robinson Chirinos hopped to his right to give Harris a target away from the right-handed swinging designated hitter.

The pitch may have caught a bit too much of the plate for Harris' liking, but still was low and somewhat outside. Kendrick, however, kept his head on the ball and took the pitch to the opposite field.

Astros right fielder George Springer gave chase, seemingly thinking the ball would either hit the base of the wall or drift foul. But Kendrick's shot was hit to the perfect spot for those rooting for the Nationals.

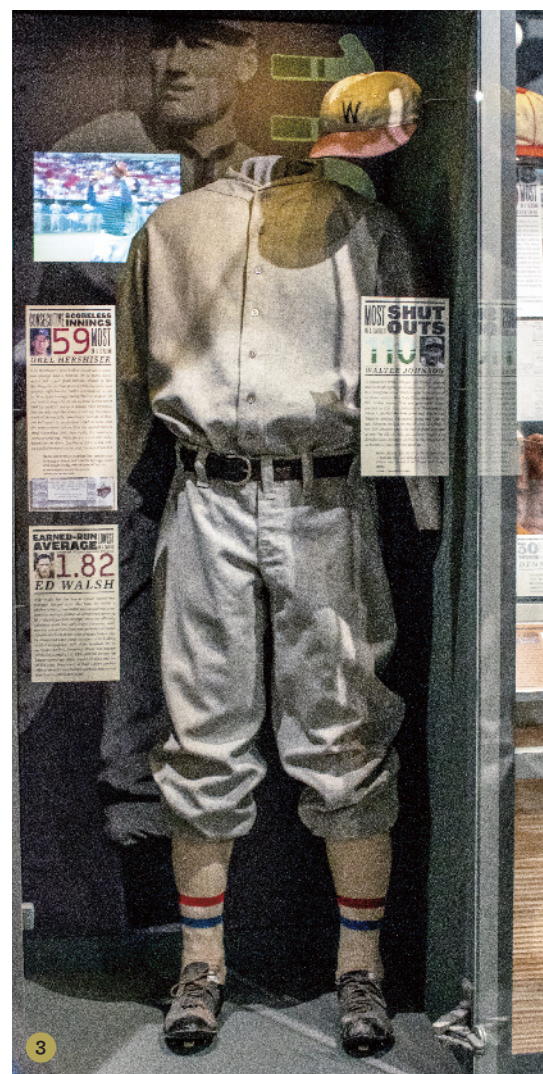
"Kendrick into the opposite corner," said play-by-play announcer Matt Vasgersian on ESPN International. "That one well hit... Springer looks up... And it's gone! Howie Kendrick has delivered the Nationals a one-run lead!"

Before that pitch, the Nationals trailed Houston, 2-1, in the top of the seventh of Game 7 of the 2019 World Series, with Juan Soto on first base and one out. But seconds later, the ball hit by Kendrick rattled off the right field foul screen at Minute Maid Park.

As Kendrick rounded the bases, the Nationals' dugout roared in celebration. And a World Series legend was born.

The Nationals tacked on three more runs and won by a score of 6-2, bringing the franchise's first World Series title home to the District of Columbia.

The ball, which now features a smudge of yellow paint from its meeting with the foul screen, is on display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



ALL PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



# Ushering In a New Season

The Museum features many artifacts from the National Pastime's game-day ambassadors.

BY JOHN ODELL

**M**any people in baseball maintain that they have the greatest job in the world, but one group has an especially good claim to the title.

They are paid to attend all 81 home games and receive free admission to every other major league ballpark. They can enjoy the game because they are out in the open, not hidden away behind a concourse or in the lower levels of a ballpark. And they don't have to haul concessions up and down hundreds of steps for hours and innings at a time.

They are the ushers: Ambassadors for the game and representatives for their team. Depending on the franchise (the responsibilities differ by club), they will take your tickets, direct you to the proper part of the stadium and/or help you find your seat. The real coup is when an old-school usher (or one drilled in old-school ways) wipes off your seat for you.

As sports reporter Ian Casselberry once noted, "Who doesn't love that? It's like the ballpark equivalent of having black pepper freshly ground on your meal. Touch of class!"

In many ways, ushers personify the fans' visit to the ballpark. Part of that is because the usher welcomes you to the stadium and directs you to your seat. Another aspect has more tension: The cat-and-mouse game that ushers and fans have played since time immemorial (or at least since 1858, when admission was first charged to enter a ballpark). Depending



MILF STEWART JR. NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

on the team, the crowd and management's rules, the usher often has the responsibility of keeping fans from ducking down into more expensive sections.

Identifying ushers is rarely difficult, as



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**Top:** Phil Coyne, an usher for the Pittsburgh Pirates for more than 80 years, donated to the Hall of Fame this work shirt from 2018, his final year on the job. **Bottom:** The Pirates usher corps (c. 1932), just before Coyne joined the crew at age 18.

they station themselves so you can find them and dress so you can see them. The livery donned at Ebbets Field in the 1940s and '50s handsomely shows the lineage of the usher's uniform, sporting bright buttons and contrasting collar and cuffs. It harkens back to the day when doormen, bellhops and other service professionals wore special attire, permitting easy recognition by customers.

The Hall's Dodgers hat was worn by Emil Frontera, who began at Ebbets Field after he returned from serving in World War II. Indeed, a closer look at the hat shows it to be a brightly colored version of a military officer's hat – just the ticket to show that the usher is in charge of his area. Frontera worked at Pfizer Chemical, but on baseball afternoons and evenings he traded his lab coat for an usher's uniform. Frontera was a Dodgers usher from 1945 to 1957, then joined the Mets at the Polo Grounds and Shea Stadium, where he worked until 1988.

The Baseball Hall of Fame has been collecting ushers' uniforms for over 50 years, but its first jackets arrived in an unusual way. In the early 1970s, the Museum's Visitor Services staff did not have a uniform, but Hall historian and former *Sporting News* executive Cliff Kachline had a connection to the St. Louis Cardinals. He secured for the Hall a set of blazers the Cardinals ushers had worn in the 1960s. The Hall then issued them to its own museum attendants, who wore them for many years.

In the late 1960s and early '70s, the Yankees issued their ushers double-breasted red jackets and red hats. While the double-breasted style



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PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

**1.** Frank Gamble wore this red cap as a Yankees usher during the late 1960s and early 1970s. **2-3.** Michael Giordano gave his uniform to his nephew, Jason Wong, who shared his love of baseball and the Orioles. Twenty years later, Jason, with Michael's blessing, donated the sweater and hat to the Hall. **4.** According to Emil Frontera's son Peter, who donated his father's cap, Emil never missed a game as an usher for the Dodgers. But one time a game ran long and made him late to a family wedding, resulting in a great deal of ribbing. **5.** Anthony Morante's jacket was donated to the Hall by his son, longtime Yankees employee Tony Morante. Once he was old enough to work, Tony joined his father at Yankee Stadium, where they worked together for more than a decade. **6.** Donated to the Museum by a longtime resident of New Jersey, this Dodgers uniform may have come from an auction that followed the team's move to California.

may have been losing favor among businessmen, it remained fine for the Yankees. It certainly helped Frank Gamble, a 40-year veteran at the Stadium whose uniform stood out in a sea of pinstripes and blue.

Sometime in the mid-1970s, Yankee Stadium ushers began wearing red blazers with blue and white vertical stripes on the front. One example now in the Museum's collection belonged to Anthony Morante, who served as an usher in the Bronx for 40 years beginning in 1949. For Morante, ushering was one of several part-time jobs he held in addition to his regular work as an engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The prospect of the new ballpark in Baltimore prompted longtime Orioles fan Michael Giordano to apply for an usher's position at Camden Yards in 1992. He hoped to start in time for the All-Star Game that

summer in Baltimore, but was not hired until August. Nevertheless, Giordano was thrilled to be working there.

"I started off in the upper deck, where people were a little rowdier," Giordano said. "Later I moved to the lower deck behind left field. There were more season-ticket holders there, and that was a little easier."

Giordano combined ushering with his regular work at a paper company and his second job repairing jewelry.

"I would work all day, take the bus downtown, and then work the ballgame," Giordano said. "It made for a long day, but it was always so exciting."

As Americans began dressing less formally for outings to the ballpark – replacing their coats, ties and hats with sport shirts and T-shirts – ball clubs mirrored the trend, moving from uniforms and blazers to today's polo shirts.

Phil Coyne began welcoming Pirates fans to Forbes Field back in 1936, before leaving to serve in World War II. He returned to Forbes, then continued as the Pirates moved into Three Rivers Stadium and, finally, on to PNC Park, retiring in 2018 at the age of 99 after more than 80 years on the job.

For years, when people asked Coyne whether he would return the following season, his standard reply was: "As long as the mind is clear and the legs hold out, I'll be ready to go next year, too. It's all luck."

When he finally retired, Coyne donated his uniform to the Hall, a bright yellow polo shirt with khaki pants, topped by a black Pirates cap.

But in 2019, Phil was back at PNC Park on Opening Day, only this time as a fan. 🍌

*John Odell is the curator of history and research at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*



# Visiting Hours

## Walker, Simmons relish first trips to Cooperstown as Hall of Famers.

BY BILL FRANCIS

**E**xactly five weeks after receiving THE phone call that informed him he was joining baseball immortality, Larry Walker was sitting in the Baseball Hall of Fame's cathedral-like Plaque Gallery, echoes of past legends seemingly reverberating between its high walls.

"I'm kind of trembling inside right now. I feel like I'm shaking. Nothing seems right about it right now. It really doesn't," said the awestruck Hall of Fame Class of 2020 member, in Cooperstown for the Orientation Visit afforded all new electees.

"All the cameras are here – and I'm talking about it – so I guess it's reality, but I'm still trying to absorb it all," he said during a 20-minute press conference in the room encircled with the bronze images of previous Hall of Fame inductees. "It hasn't happened yet. I don't know when it's going to happen. Maybe it's going to be in July. Maybe it's going to be later today. I just don't know. It's crazy to think about."

Walker and Ted Simmons, two of the four members of the Hall of Fame Class of 2020, each visited the Hall of Fame during the week of Feb. 24. It is an annual rite of passage for new Hall of Famers as they prepare for Induction Weekend.

Walker, 53, visited Cooperstown along with girlfriend Donna Szczepanski. A five-tool right-fielder for 17 big leagues seasons for a trio of National League squads, Walker was named on 76.6 percent of BBWAA ballots in his 10th-and-final year of eligibility.

"It's an amazing weekend, but I've been so nervous about it," Walker said of the

July 24-27 Induction Weekend. "A part of me is also so excited. I want it to hurry up and get here because I can't wait to experience what it's going to be like and see what happens. Hopefully I'll see a lot of Canadian flags flying around."

The 70-year-old Simmons traveled to Cooperstown with his wife of almost 50 years, Maryanne. Simmons was elected to the Hall of Fame by the Modern Baseball Era Committee in December, becoming the first electee who initially fell off the BBWAA ballot after one voting cycle.

"(Al) Kaline's right over there, (Mickey) Mantle's right over there. These people are part of my DNA," said Simmons, sitting in a director's chair and pointing at the names in

the Museum's Plaque Gallery. "This place is... Cobb... Gehrig... Stargell... Seaver. It really is overwhelming. You feel incredible being a part of this."

Simmons spoke moments after autographing the spot where his Hall of Fame plaque will reside following the *Induction Ceremony*. Walker also participated in the signing tradition, which lets Museum visitors in the spring and early summer see exactly where the new plaques will hang.

"You're asking yourself every five seconds what on earth makes you feel as though you belong in this place. Thank God there were other people who were responsible for that," Simmons said.

"I'm asked if I feel like I belong here. I don't see how anybody can come in here with the names and faces that this place is filled with and feel like they belong in here. I was lucky that I was able to play a long time, didn't get hurt and did some things. But what I did is dwarfed by comparison to what this place is filled with."

A sturdy backstop with an imposing wallop, Simmons was a unicorn on a baseball diamond as the rare switch-hitting catcher who could hit for average and power. During a 21-year career – the first 13 spent with the Cardinals before stints with the Brewers and Braves – Simmons compiled a .285 batting average, 483 doubles, 248 home runs and 1,389 RBI.



Ted Simmons reacts in awe during his tour of the Museum as part of his Orientation Visit. On the far right is a cap worn by Simmons' former Cardinals teammate Bob Gibson.



Larry Walker admires the Museum's exhibit dedicated to Henry Aaron during his Orientation Visit to the Hall of Fame on Feb. 25.

An eight-time All-Star and Silver Slugger winner, his 1,771 games caught at the time of his retirement ranked eighth all time. With a batting eye that allowed him to never strike out more than 57 times in any season, Simmons collected at least 90 RBI eight times and batted at least .300 in seven full seasons. Among big leaguers who played at least 50 percent of their games as a catcher, Simmons ranks second all time in hits, doubles and RBI.

Walker, meanwhile, is the second Canadian to earn election to the Hall of Fame, following Fergie Jenkins in 1991. The Maple Ridge, British Columbia, native recorded a .313 batting average, a .400 on-base percentage and slugged .565. He is one of four players – along with Hank Aaron, George Brett and Willie Mays – to finish his career with at least a .300 batting average, 300 home runs and 200 stolen bases.

“Baseball has taken me down roads that

as a kid playing in Maple Ridge, British Columbia, working at a bowling alley until I was 16 years old, didn't seem possible,” Walker said. “I played 15 games a summer as a kid playing baseball. We didn't have high school baseball.”

A product of the talented Montreal Expos player development system, Walker later excelled for a decade with the Colorado Rockies, receiving National League MVP votes in six of his seasons in Denver. Finishing with the Cardinals, his veteran leadership helped the Redbirds to a pair of Postseason appearances and a World Series berth in 2004.

One of the premier defensive right fielders in the game, he finished with 154 outfield assists and was a seven-time Gold Glove recipient. From 1997 through 2001, he recorded four seasons with a batting average of at least .350. The National League MVP in 1997, he also collected three batting

titles, five All-Star selections and three Silver Slugger Awards.

“Being a Baseball Hall of Famer really never entered my mind. I [was] a Canadian kid growing up playing hockey,” Walker said. “The Hall of Fame for me was the Hockey Hall of Fame. It wasn't the Baseball Hall of Fame. It never entered my mind that I would be sitting here talking about me as a Hall of Famer. Not once.

“To walk around (the Hall of Fame)... you're in awe and you're grateful and appreciative of everything that has happened,” Walker said. “Today was a great day. And it just got capped off by signing the wall where my plaque's going to go. Which still doesn't seem right, but I just did it.” 🍌

*Bill Francis is the senior research and writing specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*



# Our Museum in Action

These ongoing projects are just a few of the ways the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's mission is being supported today.

[BASEBALLHALL.ORG/MUSEUMINACTION](http://BASEBALLHALL.ORG/MUSEUMINACTION)

## WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

### Museum benches

Thanks to generous gifts from Angela and William Fielitz and Benjamin and Shawn Wright, two new benches have been added to the Museum and grounds.

Through this special program, businesses and individuals – like the Fielitzs and Wrights – have made donations to support the placement of nearly 40 benches throughout the interior

and exterior of the Museum. Thank you again to all who have joined us in this initiative.

Each bench helps enhance the visitor experience, allowing visitors an opportunity to relax and reflect during their visit. Additionally, this extremely limited opportunity is a great way to honor a loved one or your favorite baseball legend.

If you have an interest in this program, additional bench needs have been identified within the Museum and a few remain on its grounds. Donors supporting the installation of a bench with a gift of \$2,500 will be recognized

with an engraved 8" x 2" brass plaque on the bench that includes a message of their choice.

You can learn more about the Museum Bench Program by calling our Development Team at (607) 547-0385 or by visiting [baseballhall.org/benchprogram](http://baseballhall.org/benchprogram).

## WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

### Walter Johnson cap

When the Washington Nationals won the World Series on October 30, 2019, it marked the first time in 95 years that a baseball club from our nation's capital had captured MLB's championship crown.

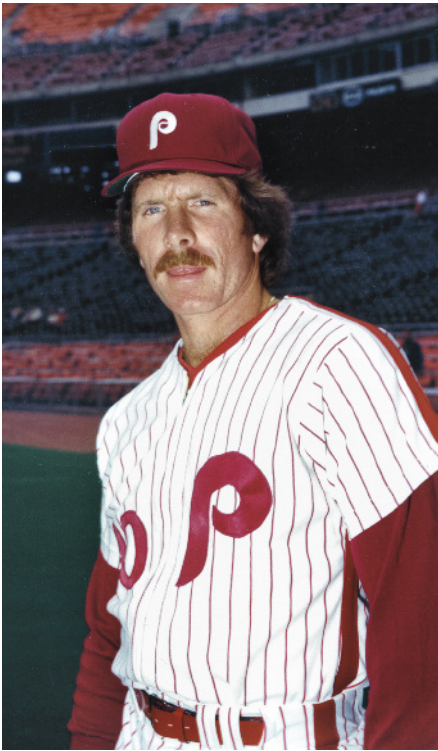
Washington, D.C., last stood atop the baseball world in 1924, when the American League's Senators bested the New York Giants in a thrilling seven-game World Series. The winning pitcher in the finale was none other than celebrated fireballer Walter Johnson, who earned the victory in relief when his longtime catcher, Muddy Ruel, scored the winning run in the bottom of the 12th.

Three years later, the pitcher known as "The Big Train" hung up his spikes with a stunning 21-year résumé that included 3,509 strikeouts, 417 wins and 110 shutouts.

The cap worn by Johnson in the final years of



**Left:** A bench sponsored by Museum supporters Benjamin and Shawn Wright welcomes visitors to the *Autumn Glory* exhibit. **Right:** This cap, worn by Hall of Famer Walter Johnson during the final seasons of his big league career, is in need of conservation work.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

his big league career is now part of the Museum collection and helps us tell the story of this Hall of Famer, his many remarkable records and his famously feared fastball. In order to continue to exhibit the cap, it must be professionally conserved. By donating the necessary funds, you can help us share the legend that is Walter Johnson – today and for years to come.

*Estimate for conservation to be performed by B.R. Howard and Associates: \$1,350*

## Digitally preserve historic photos of the Hall of Fame classes of 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998

We need your help to continue our work to digitally preserve the Museum's photo collection, which contains more than 300,000 images. You can help us to preserve the images of the classes of 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Cost to digitally preserve images of:

### Class of 1995

Richie Ashburn .....	FUNDED
Leon Day .....	FUNDED
William Hulbert (4 images): .....	\$30
Mike Schmidt (84 images): .....	\$490
Vic Willis (11 images): .....	\$55



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

### Class of 1996

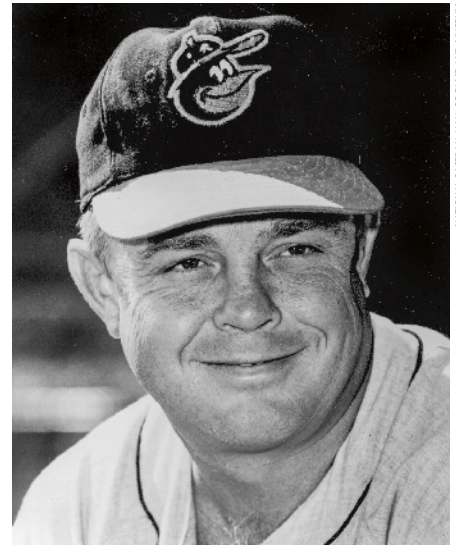
Jim Bunning (83 images):.....	\$415
Bill Foster .....	FUNDED
Ned Hanlon (10 images): .....	\$50
Earl Weaver (139 images): .....	\$715

### Class of 1997

Nellie Fox .....	FUNDED
Tommy Lasorda (55 images): .....	\$275
Phil Niekro.....	FUNDED
Willie Wells.....	FUNDED

### Class of 1998

George Davis (9 images):.....	\$45
Larry Doby (86 images):.....	\$430
Lee MacPhail (37 images):.....	\$420
Joe Rogan .....	FUNDED
Don Sutton (81 images): .....	\$405



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



DOUG McWILLIAMS/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Images from the Hall of Fame classes of 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 can be digitally preserved with the help of Museum supporters. They include photos of (clockwise from top left) Mike Schmidt (Class of 1995), Larry Doby (Class of 1998), Earl Weaver (Class of 1996) and Tommy Lasorda (Class of 1997).

## Additional projects online

We are grateful for all our donors and Museum Members who've helped us to preserve baseball history. We have accomplished a lot together, but there is more to be done.

Explore additional projects, including artifacts, photographs and Library documents that are in need of conservation and preservation, at our website. 📄

## baseballhall.org/museuminaction

*For more information – or to make a donation of any amount toward one of the projects – visit [baseballhall.org/museuminaction](http://baseballhall.org/museuminaction) or contact our Development Team at (607) 547-0385 or [development@baseballhall.org](mailto:development@baseballhall.org).*

## Day of the Dozen

The 12th edition of the Hall of Fame Classic to be held May 23 at Cooperstown's Doubleday Field.

BY CRAIG MUDER

**B**aseball's legends are returning to Cooperstown on Memorial Day Weekend for the 2020 version of the annual Hall of Fame Classic.

The Classic, now in its 12th year, will feature Hall of Famers and former MLB stars in a seven-inning legends game at historic Doubleday Field on Saturday, May 23. Hall of Famers Wade Boggs, Rollie Fingers, Goose Gossage, Fergie Jenkins, Tim Lincecum and Ozzie Smith return as team captains,



to be joined by former players representing all 30 Major League Baseball teams. Rosters will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Hall of Fame Classic highlights a weekend of family entertainment programs designed to celebrate the timeless connection of baseball across generations.

Fueled by assistance from MLB, the Classic will begin at 1:05 p.m., preceded by the Home Run Contest at noon. Tickets are on sale now at [baseballhall.org](http://baseballhall.org) or by calling (607) 207-9519. Tickets are priced at \$15 for



Former big leaguers Joe Nathan (left) and John Parrish (right) pose with fans during a photo opportunity at the 2019 *Night at the Museum* event at the Hall of Fame.

### Golf with legends in Cooperstown

As part of Classic Weekend, Hall of Fame members will lead an exclusive golf outing, with a limited number of spots available for golfers, at the beautiful Leatherstocking Golf Course on Otsego Lake. For more information on supporting the Hall of Fame through this exclusive golf outing, please call (607) 547-0310.

grandstand seats, \$12.50 for first base seats and \$11 for outfield seats.

All tickets purchased online or via phone will be shipped starting May 1. Tickets purchased online or via phone prior to May 15 will be sent via U.S. Mail. Tickets purchased May 16-21 must be picked up at the Doubleday Field Will Call tent beginning at 8 a.m. on game day.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Ticket Booth on May 22 and again at the Doubleday Field Will Call tent beginning at 8 a.m. on May 23.

Hall of Fame Classic Weekend features a number of additional family events designed to promote interactivity between fans and their baseball heroes, such as the *Cooperstown Classic Clinic* for kids.

Following the game on Saturday, the Hall of Fame will reprise its *Night at the Museum* program, now in its eighth season. Hall of Fame legends and former players will greet fans throughout the Museum on Saturday evening beginning at 6 p.m. Game participants will canvass the Museum during the course of the two-hour event that will bring the Museum to life with special programs and interactions.

While *Night at the Museum* is not an autograph session, fans should remember to bring a camera to capture their special memories.

Tickets for *Night at the Museum* are priced at \$50 for participants in the Museum's Membership Program and \$100 for non-Members.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has teamed up with Sports Travel and Tours to offer baseball fans a one-stop opportunity to purchase Classic Weekend travel packages. For more information or to plan a trip to Cooperstown, please call 1-888-310-HALL (4255). Membership participants receive a 5% discount on all their baseball travel packages. 📌





# Cardinal Connection

Hall of Famer Ted Simmons meets a very special Museum visitor during trip to Cooperstown.

BY CRAIG MUDER

**M**ichael Harper knew he wanted to come to Cooperstown. What he didn't know was what new memories were awaiting him.

Harper, a lifetime St. Louis Cardinals fan from Bettendorf, Iowa, visited the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

for the first time on Feb. 27.

"With my cancer diagnosis, my wife (Tammie) asked me if we were to travel, where I would want to go," said Harper, who has entered Hospice care. "Well, I said: 'Cooperstown.' And my wife and my friend, Jorge Rodriguez, made it happen."

What Tammie and Michael Harper didn't know was that Ted Simmons, the longtime

Cardinals catcher and member of the Hall of Fame Class of 2020, would also be at the Hall of Fame on Feb. 27 as part of his Orientation Visit. Simmons and his wife, Maryanne, toured the Museum that day in preparation for the July 24-27 Hall of Fame Weekend.

Harper, 53, grew up with Ted Simmons as one of his Cardinals heroes.

"Not one of us knew that Ted was going to be at the Hall of Fame that day," Harper said. "It was simply mind-blowing."

As Simmons toured the Plaque Gallery and signed his name to the spot where his Hall of Fame plaque will hang, Harper had the chance to meet one of the stars of his childhood. And Simmons had the chance for a memorable moment as well.

"I was incredibly surprised and shaken when I discovered that Michael and his wife had come (to Cooperstown) under those circumstances," Simmons said. "When you think of the remote percentages of that working out that way randomly, that's what I found striking when I met them both. To find myself there, you realize in your lifetime – when you live a long time – some things are just supposed to happen."

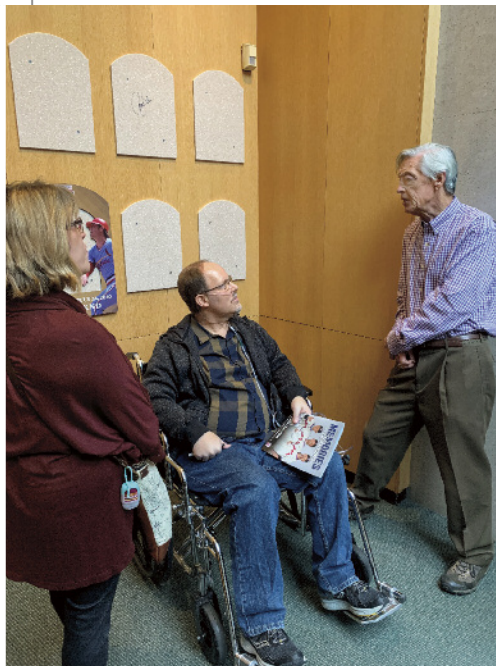
"When you give someone joy and happiness beyond your imagination, it's the kind of thing where you struggle keeping your own composure."

For Harper, the meeting brought back memories of how baseball has connected his family for generations.

"As a fan, Ted was always so special to me," Harper said. "His demeanor and how he approached the game, when I got to see him in person either in St. Louis or at Wrigley Field, was just so intense. He was not going to give away any at-bats. You knew it would be a battle with him every time."

"Knowing where I'm at in my life journey, the meeting just made me realize the importance of how baseball has connected my family. The Cardinals tradition for us was passed down from my father and grandfather on to me. And all this brings back memories of my grandfather and my dad."

"It was a special trip that we'll remember for a long, long time." 🍷



PHOTOS COURTESY MARYANNE SIMMONS

**Left:** Ted Simmons chats with the media during his Orientation Visit to the Hall of Fame on Feb. 27. **Right:** Simmons met with longtime Cardinals fans Michael and Tammie Harper, who were also visiting the Hall of Fame that day, creating a memorable moment for each of them.

*Craig Muder is the director of communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*

# MY INSPIRATIONS

Negro Leagues stars blazed a trail for players like me to reach the Hall of Fame.

BY ANDRE DAWSON

**Y**ou can't talk about the history of baseball without, in the same breath, talking about the impact that the Negro Leagues have had in changing the game itself.

When I was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2010 and visited the Plaque Gallery, the first plaques I wanted to see were the Negro Leaguers. I knew a little bit about those players' history, but seeing their actual plaques – and what was written – helped complete the picture of who they were as great ballplayers.

It was the Negro Leaguers who opened the doors for African Americans to play in the major leagues. To me, the most unfortunate part was that we probably didn't get the chance to see a lot more great ballplayers because of the era and time they played.

Even though I didn't see Negro Leaguers play, we heard the stories of the greats. They had an impact on a lot of African Americans who followed, through my days on the field and up to today's ballplayers.

I never met Jackie Robinson, but I had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with guys



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

When Andre Dawson first reached the big leagues with the Expos in 1976, he was mentored by former Negro Leaguer – and future Hall of Famer – Larry Doby.

who played in the Negro Leagues, including Larry Doby, Buck O'Neil (who scouted me) and Monte Irvin. These were the players I'd been hearing about from older relatives all my life. They encapsulated the game in the African-American community and drew great crowds, which grew

interest in the game itself. I appreciated having the opportunity to meet them.

Larry Doby was the Expos' hitting coach for my first month in the big leagues when I got called up in 1976. The first thing he said to me was: "Congratulations, young man," and then, "You don't say much." He told me: "I've seen what you've done in the minor leagues. Obviously, you're very talented. You got here this quick for a reason.

"You want to stay here, so keep your mouth closed and work hard. Enjoy yourself when you're out there. You don't want to put any pressure on yourself at this level, and everything else will take care of itself."

In the Negro Leagues, they were ballplayers, but they were also showmen. They played the game at a little faster pace. I wouldn't call it hot-dogging or showboating, but they were entertainers. They enjoyed that aspect of how the game was played. They took pleasure in playing the game on the field.

Becoming a successful baseball player was the only thing I really ever wanted to do. A good friend of mine, Warren Cromartie, his father played in the Negro Leagues. Ever since I was a kid, I would hear about his father's experiences in the Negro Leagues, see stories and some video clips. I got hooked at a very early age.

I still wonder how many superstars there were who could have been great major leaguers. You hear about Josh Gibson probably being the greatest ballplayer and never getting the chance. You hear about Satchel Paige only getting an opportunity in the major leagues when his career was coming to an end. You know that there had to be a lot of high-quality athletes around the country who were playing all those years in the Negro Leagues.

That thought crossed my mind when I initially broke into the big leagues: How many great ballplayers there were in the Negro Leagues, and how many of those great ballplayers could have had an even bigger impact on Major League Baseball. 🍎

*Andre Dawson played for the Expos, Cubs, Red Sox and Marlins from 1976-96 and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2010.*





## **A TRUE BASEBALL LEGEND**

**For 21 seasons—including five  
in Milwaukee—Ted Simmons  
personified greatness both  
on and off the field.**

**The Milwaukee Brewers are  
proud to congratulate Ted,  
as well as the entire  
legendary 2020 class, on their  
well-deserved induction into the  
National Baseball Hall of Fame.**





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## AROUND COOPERSTOWN

[cooperstowngetaway.org](http://cooperstowngetaway.org)

This Cooperstown-area stream comes alive during the spring months in Central New York.