

# THE NEGRO LEAGUES COURIER

Newsletter of SABR's Negro League Committee

"We are the Ship; All Else Are the Sea"

Aug 2006

© SABR 2005

Editor: Col. Sammy J. Miller

\*\*\*\*\*  
Send all correspondence, both Committee and newsletter related, to Committee Co-Chair Dick Clark, 1080 Hull, Ypsilanti, MI 48198-6472. Home (734) 487-5273. E-mail: TSTEARNES@aol.com. All \*\* are available for postage and a SASE from Dick Clark. Please be sure to include enough postage, usually 1 stamp/4 pages.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Contributors

Despite the fact that I do all the work, I am FORCED by the powers that be to acknowledge EVERYONE that contributes to our humble rag. They are: Bob Allen, Bob Bailey, Tim Booker, Adrian Burgos, Dick Clark, Leslie Heaphy, Larry Hogan, Jeremy Krock, Larry Lester, Norman Macht, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Rod Nelson, Bob Peterson, John Russell, Fred Schuld, Lucky Smith, Wayne Stivers, and Gregg Truitt

## Hall of Fame Induction

Eight of the Voting Committee members were in attendance, Todd Bolton, Adrian Burgos, Dick Clark, Ray Doswell, Leslie Heaphy, Larry Hogan, Larry Lester, and Jim Overmyer. Other Negro League Committee members were Lou Hunsinger, John Holway, Ted Knorr, Eddie Bedford, Jeremy Krock, Signe Knutson, Wayne Stivers, and Monte Irvin. Over forty HOF'ers were also in Cooperstown.

On Friday afternoon, the new Satchel Paige statue was dedicated with a stirring speech by Linda Paige Shelby. Pamela Paige O'Neal joined her sister on Saturday.

Myself, Larry Lester, Rick Meister, and Wayne Stivers arrived later that afternoon. We were staying at the Holiday Inn - Express where Eddie Bedford and Jeremy Krock were also staying. After picking up our badges, we shopped some and went

out to the Hotel where the families were guests.

On Friday evening a reception was held on Jane Forbes Clark property, complete with a jazz band and plenty of food. The majority of attending inductees families were spoken to there. Inductees Mendez, White, Santop, Taylor, Pompey, and Hill did not have representatives at hand.

Saturday found more rain but meeting up with Signe Knutson who had moved to Albany NY last year, along with John, Ted and Lou around town. We saw plenty of HOF'ers signing autographs all over Cooperstown. We watched some of the minor league game played on Doubleday Field. We checked out the official items available on the new class of Hall Of Famers. That evening we were bussed over to The Hall for a special reception with all the former players and all family members, a lot of fun. Special thanks to Joyce Stearnes Thompson and Nettie Stearnes for great conversation throughout this event and the weekend.

Sunday was the big day with the Induction ceremony. Buck O'Neil led off with a rousing speech, following up on Charley Pride's National Anthem, Sharon Robinson then spoke and then the 17 new Negro Leagues related players' family members read the plaques of their ancestors or Commissioner Selig read them. Pictures were taken and Bruce Sutter capped off the day with his induction speech. It was emotional for these family members and for everyone in attendance who have studied the Leagues and participated in the

research that led to this process. Quite a day!

It is truly hard to put into words how I and many others felt. I suggest folks contact the HOF to purchase many of the Induction items and Hall Of Fame Yearbook.

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, 7/30/06, "Finally getting his due" (Mackey)\*\*3pp and 7/21/06, "Fans, historians trying to keep legacy of Negro Leagues alive" \*\*1pg

"Many think Buck O'Neil deserves hall" \*\*2pp from AKRON BEACON JOURNAL 7/29/06, and 7/30/06 reprint, "Negro Leaguers, owners to get faces on wall" \*\*1pg

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, "Pompey helped open doors for Latinos in major league baseball" \*\*2pp and \*\*2pp from SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE on Pompey

From LOS ANGELES TIMES 7/30/06 "Three for a show" \*\*6pp on great teams. and "Best of the Best" \*\*2pp

NEW YORK TIMES, "The Forgotten Pioneers" \*\*5pp

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS, 7/31/06, "Hall welcomes former Detroit Stars pitcher" \*\*1pg

From HOF "Glory days: 17 special electees emerge from the Negro Leagues, pre-Negro leagues eras" \*\*6pp

### **Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference**

Starting with the reception at The Negro Leagues Museum, on Thursday evening July 6th, through the Negro Leagues Committee Meeting Sunday morning the 9th, the IX Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference was an educational and fun time. Approximately 75 folks were in attendance at most events and presentations. The Education Round Table, Friday morning, the Trivia Contest (won by Patrick Rock), the KC-Toronto game, on Friday, the Saturday Bus Tour and NLBM and Jazz Museum tours, The Hall Of Fame Election Panel and

the ten presentations were all wonderful and highly informative.

The highlight for just about everyone was a first-time event, a panel discussion by the Paige Family about their dad and home life, a really entertaining discussion. An excellent banquet closed the festivities. Thanks to Ike Brooks, Leslie Heaphy, Lloyd Johnson, Larry Lester, Sharon Lundy, and Mike Webber for their heroic efforts.

The following articles are available

- \*\*1pg Schedule of Events
- \*\*1pg Satchel Paige Collectibles
- \*\*1pg Senate Resolution Honoring Paige (5-3-2006)
- \*\*1pg Leroy Satchel Paige Day (5-28-1981)
- \*\*1pg Proclamation in KC (9-24-1965)
- \*\*2pp Satchel Paige Day Program (Wrigley Field, 7-18-1943)
- \*\*2pp Cartoons and 8-31-1941 All-Star Game
- \*\*1pg Satchel Paige School (KC)
- \*\*2pp Copy of Eulogy by Rev. Emanuel Cleaver II (6-12-1982)
- \*\*1pg The Negro Leagues and Kansas City
- \*\*2pp Upcoming (10-6-2006) John Henry "Pop" Lloyd Committee Event
- \*\*1pg Flyer for Larry Lester's upcoming book BASEBALL'S FIRST COLORED WORLD SERIES

### **SABR36 Negro Leagues Committee Meeting Summary**

Amy Essington was gracious enough to substitute for Larry and Dick and run the NLC meeting in Seattle. Everyone passed along good comments about her. Perhaps we should have Amy run future ones, also.

The Negro League Committee met in Seattle on Thursday morning of the SABR36. Committee member Amy Essington chaired the meeting using an agenda provided by Dick Clark. Twenty people attended the meeting. First, attendees introduced themselves and discussed their current interest or research project. Several new members we welcomed.

The meeting paused to

recognize the loss of Robert Peterson and Eduardo Valero, and their contributions to Negro Leagues history, who passed away this year.

The meeting next moved to a discussion about the Negro Leagues players who were elected to the Hall of Fame. Discussion centered on how the election was held, who the electees are, and potential future elections. There was also a discussion about Buck O'Neil and Minnie Minoso, who were not elected this year.

The attendees were asked to write the Hall of Fame to request the publication of the statistical encyclopedia. Invitations were given to attend the committee conference in Kansas City and Portsmouth.

### **Negro League Articles**

DETROIT FREE PRESS, 7/23/06  
"Out of Print" about Andy Cooper and with quotes from our own Dick Clark. \*\*2pp

SPORTS COLLECTOR'S DIGEST  
5/26/06 "White Was Black  
Baseball's Five-Tool Pioneer" \*\*  
2pgs

SPORTS COLLECTOR'S DIGEST  
5/26/06 "Prophetic Views of  
Renaissance Man Sol White" \*\*1pg  
PRESSTELEGRAM.COM 6/20/06  
"Remembering An Era: 'Satch'  
[Davis] Looks Back on Negro  
Leagues" \*\*3pgs

THE KANSAS CITY STAR 7/4/06  
"Scholars Are Now Up To Bat"  
\*\*2pgs

USA TODAY 7/19/06 "Backers  
of O'Neil, 94, Hope Walk Leads to  
Baseball Hall of Fame" \*\*1pg

POST-GAZETTE.COM 7/9/06 "On  
the Road with Satch & Co."  
\*\*4pgs

POST-GAZETTE.COM 7/9/06  
"Negro Leagues Converged in an  
East Meets West Powerball Summit"  
\*\*4pgs

POST-GAZETTE.COM 7/9/06  
"When Depression and WWII Defined  
A Nation..." (about Grays and  
Crawfords) \*\*6pgs

7/18/06 AP "Buck O'Neil,  
94, to play in minor league all-

star game" \*\*2pp

ALBANY TIMES UNION 7/31/06  
"Buck's Cut Sad But True" \*\*2pp

### **Committee News & Research Requests**

Larry Lester has put  
together a little contest to go  
along with the recent Hall of  
Fame inductions: Send your answer  
to the following question to  
NTResearch@comcast.net. The  
question is:

What Negro League team had  
the most Hall of Famers in a  
given season?

The winner will get a HOF  
induction program.

The following research  
request comes from Phil Lowry.  
"The third Negro Leagues game  
lasting 20 or more innings has  
just been discovered. In early  
August 1934, the Austin Black  
Senators defeated the Newgulf  
(Houston) Black Buffs 3-2 in 27  
innings at Houston, Texas.

Does anyone know the date  
of this game, or what league the  
Black Senators and Black Buffs  
played in in August 1934? I am  
assuming it was the Negro  
Southern League, but I am just  
guessing.

Thank you very much."

I know for a fact that it  
was not the Negro Southern  
League. I suspect the game was a  
Texas-Oklahoma League game. Can  
anyone verify this?

### **Gravesites**

Work is currently underway  
to get suitable headstone for  
Hall of Famers Ray Brown, Sol  
White and Frank Grant. The graves  
of Grant and White may present a  
problem where marking them is  
concerned due to the fact that  
both men were buried in paupers  
graves.

Donations are not needed at  
this time but may be called for  
in future issues.

### **In The Marketplace**

To coincide with the induction of Effa Manley into the Hall of Fame, St. Johann Press has reprinted Mrs. Manley's book "Negro Baseball...Before Integration". Originally printed in the mid-1970's, this extremely rare book was out of the price range of most individuals interested in Negro League Baseball. This is not the case anymore.

To many times, reprint editions lose the flavor of the original book and thus take away from the experience. I was very happy to see this was not the case here. While sporting a new cover, a foreward by Larry Hogan, and a new photo section, St. Johann still managed to capture the feel of the original book by making their reprint a true copy, including everything that appeared in the original down to the original type font.

While one must keep in mind that some of the information contained in the original parts of this book are dated and have been proven wrong since, this is still a great book. I loved it.

Sammy's Call: Home Run

For those interested  
contact:

St. Johann Press  
P.O. Box 241  
Haworth, NJ 07641  
(201) 387-1529

A new book is out,  
OUT OF THE SHADOWS: African  
American Baseball from the Cuban  
Giants to Jackie Robinson, edited  
and with an introduction by Bill  
Kirwin, from University of  
Nebraska Press, 226 pages.

### **Recent Events**

The Detroit Tigers had a  
two day celebration of The Negro  
Leagues, July 14th & 15th On  
Friday. Vanessa Thompson (Turkey  
Stearnes' granddaughter) threw  
out the first pitch and Nettie

Stearnes was in attendance as  
well. Willie Horton was also  
there to sign his latest book. On  
Saturday, ten former players were  
honored along with the two former  
Detroit Stars who are new members  
of the Hall Of Fame, Andy Cooper  
and Pete Hill. Players honored  
were, Joe Douse, Mel Duncan (he  
threw out the first pitch),  
Herald Gordon, Gene Johnson,  
Marvin Jones, Cecil Kaiser, Alton  
King, James Moore, Ralph Palmer,  
and Ron Teasley. The pre-game  
went very well and everyone had a  
great time. Thanks to Eli Bayless  
(of the Tigers) Lucky Smith and  
Louis Manley of the Michigan  
Chapter of the Negro League  
Players.

Cecil Kaiser, Mel Duncan,  
and Gene Johnson joined Eddie  
Bedford in Adrain, Michigan on  
Sunday July 16th. Around 60  
people were in attendance to see  
the players and hear Eddie's  
presentation on Black Baseball  
with highlights on the Page Fence  
Giants. The players answered  
questions and signed autographs  
for all. Thanks to Louis Manley  
and Lucky Smith for their able  
assistance.