

# THE NEGRO LEAGUES COURIER

Newsletter of SABR's Negro League Committee

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

Feb 2006

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Editor: Col. Sammy J. Miller

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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.

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## 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, Fredrico, Leslie Heaphy, Ted Knorr, Larry Lester, Jerry Malloy, Gary Maurer, Joe Mitchell, Rod Nelson, Bob Peterson, John Russell, Wayne Stivers, and Gregg Truitt

## ESPN To Air Negro League Game

On Feb. 26, ESPN Classic will be airing a baseball game from Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama. The game will pit the Birmingham Black Barons, made up of local players, against a "barnstorming team" from Bristol Connecticut.

The teams will be wearing vintage uniforms as well as period gloves and bats.

Check local listings for the time.

## Hall of Fame Candidates Bios

In anticipation of the upcoming election of Negro League and Pre-Negro league players later this month, the Hall of Fame's website ([www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org)) is listing biographies of all 39 candidates. A new one will be posted each day between now and the elections. Be sure to check them out.

## Committee News

The happiest of birthday wishes from everyone here at *The Courier* and the NLC to Monte Irvin and Bill Cash.

Welcome to new committee member Michael Spatz 5154 Morningside Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410) 750-2971

[mybraves@hotmail.com](mailto:mybraves@hotmail.com)

Adrian Burgos and wife Dolly welcomed Miranda Maria Burgos to the world on January 23rd. She is 6 lbs 4 oz and measuring 19 inches.

Dick Clark will be making a presentation on SHADES OF GLORY, subbing for the ill Jules Tygiel. Players Ron Teasley and Herald Gordon will also be on the program. It will be February 23rd in Dearborn, Michigan.

## Negro League Related Articles

From THE BLADE (Toledo Ohio) 2/7/2005 \*\*1pg "Prestige of 1st black major leaguer likely no longer belongs to Toledo"

THE FRIDAY FLYER, 1/20/2006 \*\*2pg "Duo hopes relative will be named to Baseball Hall of Fame" (Wilkinson)

STAR TRIBUNE WEEKLY (Minneapolis) 12/7/2005 \*\*2pg "A legend of the past gets shot at Hall" (Donaldson)

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES, 12/26/2005, "Hilldale Days: One Man's Memories of Hilldale" \*\*2pgs

SPORTLAND MAGAZINE, Summer 1946 "Satchel and his Fellow Monarchs" \*\*5pgs

## Obituaries

Willie Smith, former Major Leaguer and Birmingham Black Baron passed on in January 16th at 66 in Anniston, AL. \*\*2pg

## In The Marketplace

University of Alabama Press is releasing BARNSTORMING TO HEAVEN: Syd Pollock and his Great Black Teams. by Alan Pollock 424 pages 34 illustrations for \$35 available in March.

## Upcoming Events

On Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, the state of Delaware and city of Wilmington will co-sponsor the eleventh annual Judy Johnson Night - A Tribute to Negro Leagues Baseball, honoring the memory and legacy of Judy Johnson. The Carolina League (Class A) game between the Wilmington Blue Rocks and the Lynchburg Hillcats will be played at Wilmington's Judy Johnson Field at Daniel S. Frawley Stadium with pre-game ceremonies starting at 5:30 pm., DE 19707.

For additional information, please contact Gregg Truitt at 801 Partridge Court, Hockessin, DE 19707

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Press Release

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Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia

For immediate release

February 3, 2006 - October 31, 2006

Opening reception and exhibition for

"Barnstormin': The Negro Leagues: 1920 - 1960"

Richmond, VA - On Friday, February 3, 2006, the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia opens the exhibition, Barnstormin': the Negro Leagues: 1920 - 1960.

This exhibition chronicles Negro Baseball Leagues including, the Negro Southern League, the Eastern Colored League, the American Negro League and the Negro National League.

Yvonne Hopkins, guest curator has designed the exhibition to include two hundred - fifty artifacts. Included are autographed photographs, baseballs, bats, and other memorabilia. The title Barnstormin' comes from the term barnstorm.

Throughout history, barns were used occasionally as auditoriums and places for local community groups to gather. Webster's New World Dictionary of American English defines the term barnstorm: to go about the country performing plays about, giving lectures or

campaign speeches, playing exhibition games, etc., especially in small towns and rural districts.

The National Association of Base Ball Players formed in 1867 banned black athletes. Nevertheless, between 1865 and 1890 a few African Americans broke the color barrier and played alongside White athletes. After 1890, the color barrier would bar all African Americans for the next fifty-five years from the national association. As a result, more than 200 all-black independent teams formed throughout the country.

In 1920, the owner of the Chicago American Giants, Andrew 'Rube' Foster called midwestern team owners to Kansas City for a meeting, forming the Negro National League. Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Ernie Banks, Satchel Paige, 'Cool Papa' Bell, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, and Richmond native and Hall of Famer, Ray Dandridge began their baseball careers in the Negro Leagues. These men paved the road for today's contemporary baseball players while facing the prejudices and injustices of the times.

Barnstormin': the Negro Leagues, 1920 - 1960 will begin on February 3, 2006 with an opening reception for invited guests from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The general public may begin viewing at 7:30 p.m. The exhibition will be on display until October 31, 2006 call 804-780-9093 for hours of operation, admission rates, and general inquiries.

## The Final Pitch

Tune in next issue for my report on the events of the Negro League elections at the hall of Fame.

Col. Sammy J. Miller