

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee  
"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

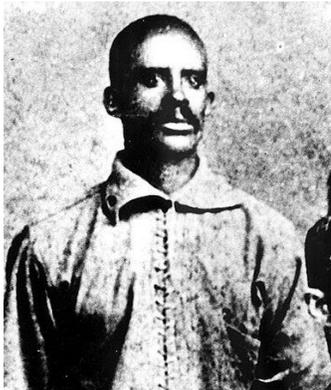
Centennial Issue, 2020

## In the News

### Bud Fowler Selected as SABR's Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend of 2020 by Peter Mancuso

**J**ULY 29, 2020 — John "Bud" Fowler has been selected as SABR's [Overlooked 19th Century Base-ball Legend](#) for 2020. The announcement was made on July 29 at the [Nineteenth Century Committee's](#) annual business meeting held during SABR Virtual.

This spring, a record 341 SABR members submitted their votes for the 2020 Overlooked 19th Century Base Ball Legend — a 19th-century player, manager, executive or other baseball personality not yet inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.



Fowler was a [pioneering Black base-ball player](#), manager, organizer, and promoter. He was born **John W. Jackson** in Fort Plain, New York, in 1858. By 1860 his family was living in nearby Cooperstown, where he would learn to play baseball on the fields of the Cooperstown Seminary. Jackson went by the

last name of Fowler by the time he became a ballplayer.

He joined the amateur Franklins of Chelsea, Massachusetts, for the **1878** season. Fowler pitched for Chelsea in a game against the **Live Oaks** of Lynn, Massachusetts, on April 13. Eleven days later he pitched for a picked nine in an exhibition against the Boston National League club, outdueling Tommy Bond for a 2-1 victory. These games certainly caught the attention of the Live Oaks, a member of the International Association. On **May 17**, Fowler pitched a 3-0 shutout for the Live Oaks over the Tecumsehs of London, Ontario. The game marked the first time an African American played in white baseball. This important game was just the beginning of his notable career in baseball.

For the next two decades, Fowler, who started as a pitcher but could play all nine positions, faced racism from fans, opposing players, team administrators, and

teammates, thus making each stop usually a brief one despite often being the best player on the team. Historian Robert Peterson, in his classic book *Only the Ball Was White*, stated Fowler was "unquestionably of major-league star calibre."

As early as 1883, Fowler tried to form a "colored league" and in 1887 formed the first successful African American barnstorming team, the **New York Gorhams**. In 1894, he would be the driving force behind the establishment of the famed **Page Fence Giants (Adrian, MI)**. Fowler died on February 26, 1913. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Frankfort, New York. SABR [put a marker on the grave](#) in 1987. On April 13, 2013, a street in Cooperstown was named **Fowler Way** to honor the baseball great.

For an extended biography of Bud Fowler, see [his SABR bio](#) written by Brian McKenna. For even more, SABR member [Jeff Laing](#) has written a book, *Bud Fowler: Baseball's First Black Professional* (2013).

This information was provided by the [Overlooked 19th Century Baseball Legends Project](#),

visit [SABR.org/overlooked-19th-century-baseball-legends](http://SABR.org/overlooked-19th-century-baseball-legends) or contact

project co-chairs [Adam Darowski](#) or [Joe Williams](#).



## John Donaldson Statue & Field Dedication Day – Negro League Superstar to be honored

Friday, **September 4, 2020, Glasgow, Missouri**

**W**hat: Negro League superstar, John Wesley Donaldson, is to be honored in his hometown of Glasgow, Missouri on September 4, 2020. A special dedication honoring Donaldson will take place at the site of **John Donaldson Field** beginning at 4:00 PM on Friday, September 4 on the grounds of the Glasgow High School. The city of Glasgow has proclaimed the day as John Wesley Donaldson Statue & Field Dedication Day. Baseball will celebrate the unveiling of a statue of Donaldson made by renowned sculptor **Kwan Wu**. The larger-than-life statue depicts Donaldson winding up to throw one of his signature pitches that left his opponents whiffing at the air as the ball passed. Baseball fans, Donaldson family members, local and national dignitaries will be joined by historians from across the country recognizing the significance of the career of John Donaldson. A local celebration surrounding the event is being organized.

**W**ho: John Wesley Donaldson was born in Glasgow, Missouri on February 20, 1891. He attended Evans school, a segregated Black school where he led his school to a number of championships. After attending **George R. Smith College** in Sedalia for a short time, he began to pursue his baseball career in earnest and went on to play for a number of mixed race and all Black semi-pro teams including the renowned **Kansas City Monarchs**. For more information on Donaldson's baseball career, see the attached bio and media coverage. Donaldson died on April 14, 1970 and was buried in Chicago's historic **Burr Oak Cemetery** in an 'unmarked grave'. In 2004 a marker was placed at Donaldson's grave with contributions from around the country.

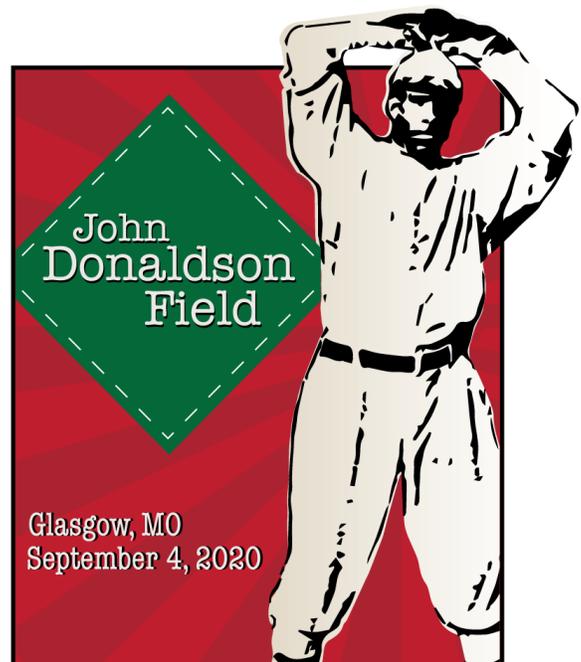
**W**hen: John Donaldson Statue & Field Dedication Day, September 4, 2020 4:00 P.M. CST.

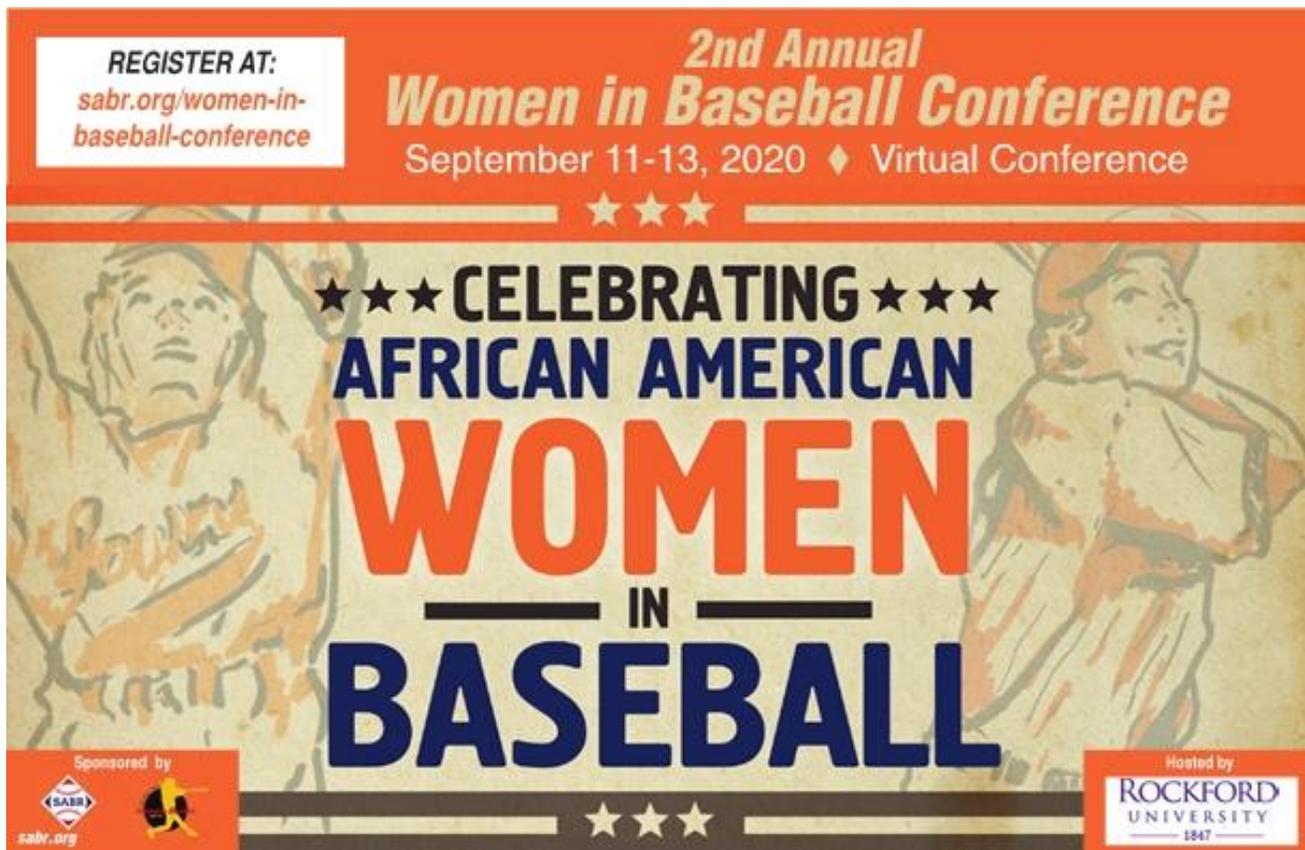
**W**here: John Donaldson Field at Glasgow High School 860 Randolph St. Glasgow, MO.

**Sponsors:** Glasgow Public Schools,  
The Donaldson Network,  
The Glasgow Community Museum Board,  
The Friends of the Glasgow Museum

Contact: Pete Gorton, 612-325-7815  
1227 Washington Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
[pwgortonmb@hotmail.com](mailto:pwgortonmb@hotmail.com)

SAVE THE **NEW** DATE  
Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference  
July 28 to August 1, 2021  
Birmingham, Alabama





[Director Lauren Meyer to speak at 2020 SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference](#)

We are pleased to announce that Lauren Meyer, Emmy Award-nominated director of *The Other Boys of Summer*, will be the featured speaker at the [2020 SABR/IWBC Women in Baseball Conference](#).

The second annual Women in Baseball Conference, sponsored by SABR and the International Women’s Baseball Center, and hosted by Rockford University, will take place virtually on Zoom from September 11-13, 2020. This year’s conference, which is open to all baseball fans, will be centered around the theme “**Celebrating African American Women in Baseball.**”

Meyer is the director of *The Other Boys of Summer*, a film that explores civil rights and equality in America through the lives of Negro League baseball players. These are the men (and a few women) who played professional baseball in the 1930s, ’40s and ’50s alongside Jackie Robinson. The Negro Leagues was professional baseball, on par with MLB, that existed before African Americans were allowed in Major League Baseball.

Meyer grew up in New Jersey and attended Rutgers University. She is an Emmy Award-nominated director and her work has been seen on dozens of TV networks and digital platforms, including ABC, NBC, Nickelodeon, ESPN, HGTV, A&E, TLC, Discovery, Netflix, and Amazon. Her specialty is storytelling and being a champion for the underdog.

For more information, or to register, visit [SABR.org/women-in-baseball-conference](#).

**Negro Leagues Centennial Celebration and Pylon Unveiling - September 12, 2020 at 5 p.m.**

Join us as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Negro Leagues and African American Women in Baseball. Included in the celebration are video tributes from a variety of Negro League historians and scholars, and Negro League family members. There will be music and a talk by **Dr. Leslie Heaphy** who will tell us about such important historical figures as **Claire Smith, Effa Manley, Minnie Forbes, Tamara Holmes** and **Toni Stone** along with many others.

The celebration will end with the unveiling of the IWBC’s second part of our outdoor museum. This year’s memorial is dedicated to the long history of African American women in all aspects of baseball. This pylon will join last year’s memorial dedicated to Penny Marshall and the movie *A League of Their Own*.

This celebration is open to all Conference registrants and for those only interested in the celebration, it will be streamed on Facebook.

<https://sabr.org/women-in-baseball-conference>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SABR.baseball.research/>

# Shrine of the Eternals Class of 2020

By the late Terry Cannon

**Rube Foster**, Max Patkin, and Bob Costas were elected upon receiving the highest number of votes in balloting conducted during the month of April 2020 by the membership of the Baseball Reliquary. Of the fifty eligible candidates on the 2020 ballot, Rube Foster received the highest voting percentage, being named on 42.5% of the ballots returned. Following Foster were Max Patkin with 36% and Bob Costas with 32%. Runners-up in this year's election included **Effa Manley** (29%), **Mamie "Peanut" Johnson** (27%), Dusty Baker (25%), Felipe Alou (22%), **Octavius V. Catto** (22%), and Rube Waddell (22%).

Elected to the Shrine of the Eternals in his 22nd year on the ballot, **ANDREW "RUBE" FOSTER** (1879-1930) was a dominant pitcher who peaked during the early years of the 20th century. With the Cuban X-Giants in 1902, Foster reeled off an unofficial 44 consecutive wins and, in the following year, pitched that team to victory over the Philadelphia Giants for the "Colored Championship of the World." He picked up his nickname when he beat Philadelphia Athletics southpaw Rube Waddell in a 1903 exhibition game. In 1911, he founded the Chicago American Giants. Under Foster's expert guidance, the American Giants crushed opponents, winning every Black championship for a decade. After establishing the team as the greatest sporting institution that Black America had ever seen, Foster set his sights higher. During the 1919-1920 off-season, he founded the Negro National League in Kansas City – the first successful, organized Black professional baseball league. While still acting as manager of the Giants, Rube took on the additional roles of league president and treasurer, leading the circuit to dizzying heights of success. The weight of these responsibilities caught up with him in 1926, when he suffered a nervous breakdown. The "Father of Black Baseball" never recovered, dying prematurely in 1930. The pitcher-turned-entrepreneur, **Rube Foster is elected to the Shrine of the Eternals in the same year that he is being honored during the centennial celebration of his greatest achievement, the founding of the Negro National League.** "What Rube Foster accomplished in establishing the Negro Leagues against the backdrop of American segregation is monumental and richly deserves to be more than just a footnote in baseball history," Bob Kendrick, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum president, said. "The Negro Leagues would change the game and America too. This milestone anniversary creates a platform to educate the public about this powerful story of triumph over adversity while using the many relevant life-lessons to inspire a nation to embrace diversity and inclusion."



Rube Foster, Max Patkin, and Bob Costas will join 63 other baseball luminaries who have been inducted into the Shrine of the Eternals since elections began in 1999, including, in alphabetical order: Jim Abbott, Dick Allen, Roger Angell, Emmett Ashford, Billy Beane, Moe Berg, Sy Berger, Yogi Berra, Steve Bilko, Ila Borders, Jim Bouton, Jim Brosnan, Charlie Brown, Bill Buckner, Glenn Burke, Roberto Clemente, Steve Dalkowski, Dizzy Dean, Rod Dedeaux, Jim Eisenreich, Dock Ellis, Nancy Faust, Eddie Feigner, Lisa Fernandez, Mark Fidrych, Curt Flood, Ted Giannoulas, Josh Gibson, Jim "Mudcat" Grant, Pete Gray, Arnold Hano, William "Dummy" Hoy, Bo Jackson, Shoeless Joe Jackson, Bill James, Dr. Frank Jobe, Tommy John, Bill "Spaceman" Lee, Roger Maris, Marvin Miller, **Minnie Minoso**, Manny Mota, **Don Newcombe**, Lefty O'Doul, **Buck O'Neil**, **Satchel Paige**, Jimmy Piersall, Pam Postema, J.R. Richard, **Jackie Robinson**, **Rachel Robinson**, Lester Rodney, Pete Rose, Vin Scully, Rusty Staub, Casey Stengel, Luis Tiant, Bob Uecker, Fernando Valenzuela, Bill Veeck Jr., Maury Wills, Kenichi Zenimura, and Don Zimmer.

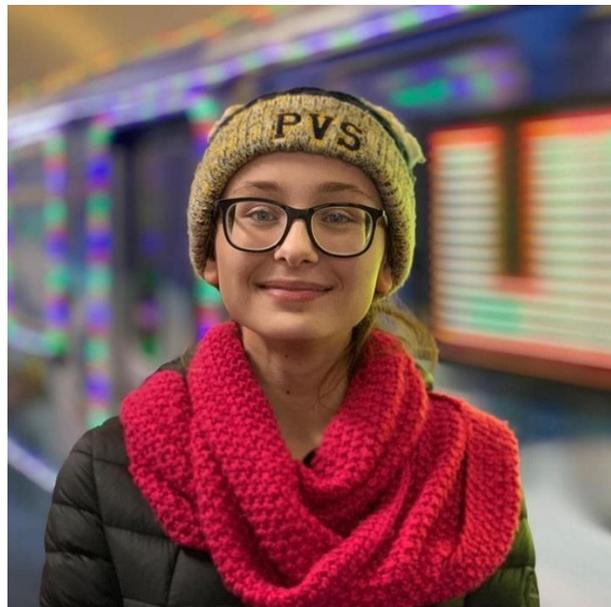
## 2020 Jerry Malloy Conference Scholarship Winners

More than 320 applications were received from 38 states, including Washington, DC and five countries. The winning applicants each received \$1,000. **Congratulations!**

### Robert Peterson Scholarship

#### Irena Petryk

Irena Petryk is an incoming freshman at **Northwestern University**. During her time in high school, she pursued an interest in business and law through her involvement in **Mock Trial** and **DECA**. She also nurtured her love for music by participating in several music ensembles as a cellist, namely her school orchestra and a chamber group known as **Cello Choir**. She is on the **Junior Board of Expanding Lives**, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting women's education in **West Africa** by hosting leadership conferences and funding high school and college tuition.



### Jimmie Crutchfield Scholarship

#### Marlo Towle



Throughout my life I have always been involved in extracurricular activities including sports and community service as well as challenging academic classes. Sports have always been a big part of my life. I played soccer for my high school and my club team and I skied and played basketball in the off season. I also enjoy being involved in my community by volunteering through organizations such as **Key Club** and the **Huskie Community Service Alliance**.

I have also been a **Girl Scout** for most of my life which provided even more opportunities to help those around me. Academically I always try to challenge myself in school as much as possible. I have been in ten AP classes in high school as well as multiple honors classes. I have also participated in **We the People**, a competition based government class in which my class placed sixth in the nation. This fall, I will be attending the honors college at the **University of Utah** where I plan on majoring in a STEM field.

## Normal "Tweed" Webb Scholarship

### Sarah Harper

My name is Sarah Harper and I graduated from Matanzas High School in Palm Coast, Florida, in May 2020. I have enjoyed participating in the school marching band and jazz band and have served as the saxophone section leader. I have also been involved in community service: working in a mission and with the youth of my church. In the fall, I will attend the **University of Central Florida**. My goal is to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management from **Rosen College** which is a satellite campus of UCF. I would like to concentrate on Theme Park and Hotel Management. While in school, I plan on interning in the hospitality industry and would like to pursue an internship abroad. My desire is to learn about the different hospitality standards in other parts of the world. This scholarship will enable me to pursue my employment dreams and turn them into a lifelong reality.



## Andrew "Rube" Foster Scholarship

### Sierra Kinsler

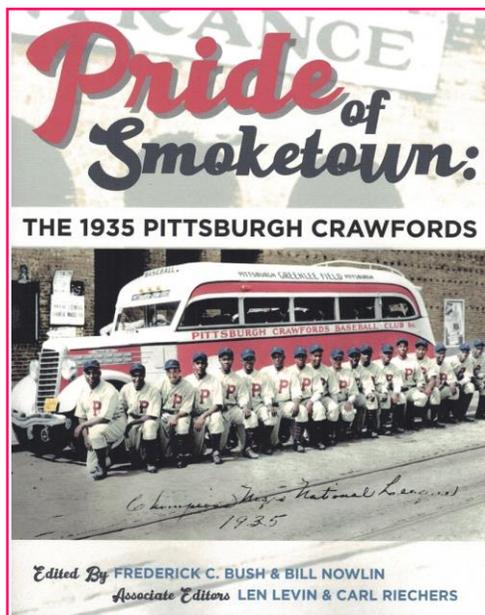


My name is Sierra Kinsler and it is with great pride that I accept the Andrew "Rube" Foster Scholarship. This fall, I will be studying animal science at **Cornell University**, pursuing a career in veterinary medicine and bringing my love for animals to the next level. Throughout my high school career, I have been proudest of my roles as the lighting manager of **Catonsville High School's** stage crew, president of the **National Honor Society**, and secretary of the **Model United Nation's** team. As I continue to live with the determination, drive, and passion that Rube Foster embodied throughout his life, I am also excited to grow not only as a human being, but also as a student over the next four years. With the steep cost of college, this scholarship gives me the opportunity to spend more time focusing on my studies, engaging in new experiences, and making my mark on the world. Ultimately, from my college enrollment process, I have learned that once I have given my all to something, the rest will follow; sometimes in the most surprising ways.

## Dugout Reading:

### **Pride of Smoketown: The 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords** by **Frederick C. Bush** and **Bill Nowlin** with associate editors **Len Levin** and **Carl Riechers**

Another outstanding publication by the members of the SABR family. The 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords team, one of the dominant teams in Negro League history, is often compared to the legendary 1927 “Murderer’s Row” New York Yankees. The squad from “Smoketown”—a nickname that the *Pittsburgh Courier*



often applied to the metropolis better-known as “Steel City”—boasted four Hall-of-Fame players in outfielder **James “Cool Papa” Bell**, first baseman-**Oscar**

**Charleston**, catcher **Josh Gibson**, and third baseman **William “Judy” Johnson**. The team also included such stalwarts as **Sam Bankhead**, **William Bell**, **Jimmie Crutchfield**, **Andrew “Pat” Patterson**, **Leroy Matlock**, and **Sam Streeter**. With a roster full of such illustrious stars, it is easy to see why the Crawfords were dominant. Nonetheless, the team unexpectedly had to scratch and claw its way to the Negro National League pennant by defeating the **New York Cubans** in a thrilling seven-game championship series. This book includes articles on the players from the 1935 squad, as well as one who was absent.

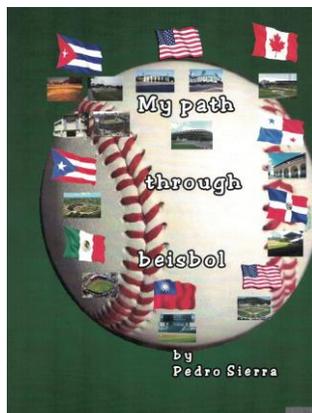
This volume contains exhaustively-researched articles about the players, front office personnel, Greenlee Field, and the exciting games and history of the team that were written and edited by 25 SABR members. The inclusion of historical photos about every subject in the book helps to shine a spotlight on the 1935 Pittsburgh Crawfords, who truly were the **Pride of Smoketown**.

Check out SABR’s Digital Library for your copy at: <https://sabr.org/latest/sabr-digital-library-pride-of-smoketown-1935-pittsburgh-crawfords>

### **My Path Through Beisbol**

by **Pedro Sierra**

This is a pictorial history of Pedro Sierra’s career, an All-Star pitcher, with the **Indianapolis Clowns** and the **Detroit Stars**.

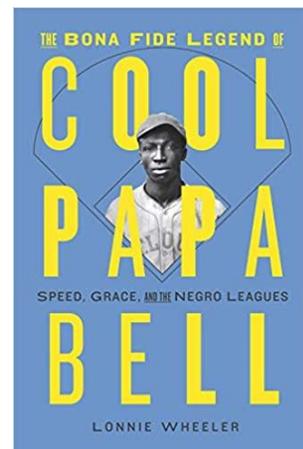


Sierra takes us from Rafael Conte Stadium, to the Havana Red Lions, Durango Lagunas, Lynchburg Senators, the Fort Hood Tankers, to the Erie Sailors, Minnesota Twins, Bismarck Mandam Pards, Wisconsin Rapids Twins, High Point Thoms, Coaticook Canadiens, Cultura Deportes (Panama), Pericos de Puebla, Dorados de Chihuahua, Diablo Rojos de Mexico, Alijadores de Tampico, Piratas de Atlantico, Sherbrook Alouettes (MVP), to the **Washington Senators** training camp, and eventually to the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame, July 2014. Get your copy from Pedro at: [PeteSierrap@aol.com](mailto:PeteSierrap@aol.com)

### **The Bona Fide Legend of Cool Papa Bell: Speed, Grace, and the Negro Leagues** due out **February 9, 2021** by the late **Lonnie Wheeler**

The first full biography of the star Negro Leaguer and Hall of Famer. James “Cool Papa” Bell (1903–1991) was a legend in Black baseball, a lightning fast switch hitter elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974. Bell’s speed was extraordinary; as Satchel Paige famously quipped, he was so fast he could flip a light switch and be in bed before the room got dark.

In *The Bona Fide Legend of Cool Papa Bell*, experienced baseball writer and historian Lonnie Wheeler recounts the life of this extraordinary player, a key member of some of the greatest Negro League teams in history. Born to sharecroppers in Mississippi, Bell was part of the Great Migration, and in St. Louis, baseball saved Bell from a life working in slaughterhouses. Wheeler charts Bell’s ups and downs in life and in baseball, in the United States, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, where he went to escape American racism and MLB’s color line. Rich in context and suffused in myth, this is a treat for fans of baseball history.



**Editor's note:** Mr. Wheeler, author of books about Bob Gibson and Hank Aaron suffered an untimely death on June 10<sup>th</sup>, at age 68. When we last spoke the final manuscript had just been sent to the publisher. You may remember Lonnie from the Jerry Malloy NL Conference.

Born in St. Louis in 1952, Lonnie was first hired by the *Enquirer* as a features writer in the late 1970s. He switched to sports in the 1980s after a stint with the start-up of *USA TODAY*, a sister Gannett publication.

His first two books were published in 1988: *The Cincinnati Game*, a Reds history with John Baskin, and *Bleachers: A Summer In Wrigley Field*. He was best known for collaborating with home run king Aaron on his 1992 biography, *I Had A Hammer: The Hank Aaron Story*.

The Aaron book opened the door to writing three books with Gibson, the Hall of Fame St. Louis Cardinals pitcher: *Stranger To The Game: The Autobiography of Bob Gibson*; *Pitch By Pitch: My Views Of One Unforgettable Game*; and *Six Feet, Six Inches* with Gibson and Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson.

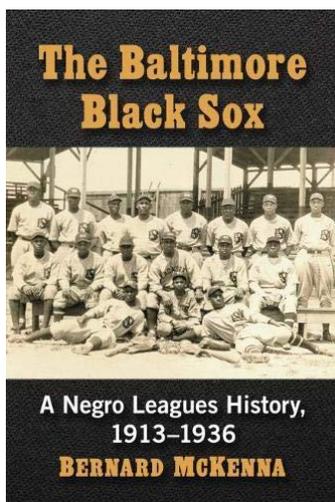
## The Baltimore Black Sox: A Negro Leagues History, 1913-1936

by **Bernard McKenna**

I love the rare images in this book. This is the only book about Crab City's Black Sox, charter members of the ECL, and why their infield was valued at a million dollars. Highlights include the **Baltimore Giants**, boxer **Joe Gans** and **Druid Hill Park**.

Providing a comprehensive history of the Baltimore Black Sox from before the team's founding in 1913 through its demise in 1936, this history examines the social and cultural forces that gave birth to the club and informed its development. The author describes aspects of Baltimore's history in the first decades of the 20th century, details the team's year-by-year performance, explores front-office and management dynamics and traces the shaping of the Negro Leagues. The history of the **Black Sox's home ballparks** and of the people who worked for the team both on and off the field are included.

Get your copy today. Published by McFarland Publishers. <https://www.amazon.com/Baltimore-Black-Sox-Leagues-1913-1936/dp/1476677719>

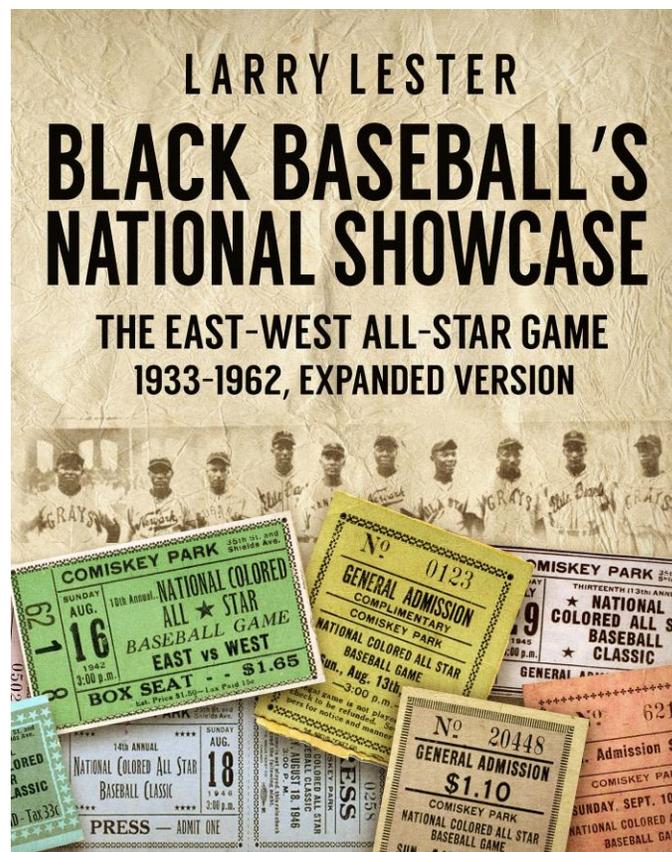


## Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All-Star Game, 1933 to 1962, Expanded Version by Larry Lester

After 20 years, I decided to revisit Black America's most celebrated sporting event, the East-West classics played annually at **Comiskey Park** in Chicago. The expanded version includes another nine years of glorious play by these men in black.

As we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Negro Leagues, I just released the updated version of *BLACK BASEBALL'S NATIONAL SHOWCASE: THE EAST-WEST ALL-STAR GAME, 1933 TO 1962*. This 535-page scholarly time capsule offers contemporary accounts of the classic games, with annotations, play-by-plays, financial records, vote tallies, batting order analysis, all-star trivia and firsts, PLUS calculated team & individual batting and pitching statistics. Bonus section of 125 all-time all-star teams selected by historians and writers.

This coffee-table sized book is the only manuscript ever published about Black America's largest attended sporting event.



Suggested retail price was \$95. Currently, the coffee-table sized book can be purchased for only **\$29.95** from **Amazon**. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycbv67n3> to order your copies. Upon delivery, send your mailing address to [LarryLester42@gmail.com](mailto:LarryLester42@gmail.com) and I will forward you a signed book plate.

## Win a Free Book!

In the **Word Search Puzzle** below, find the names of 33 of the 35 Negro League Hall of Fame players listed. Select from one of the two books pictured below. A free book will be sent to the **FIRST** three winners.

**Everyone is eligible.**

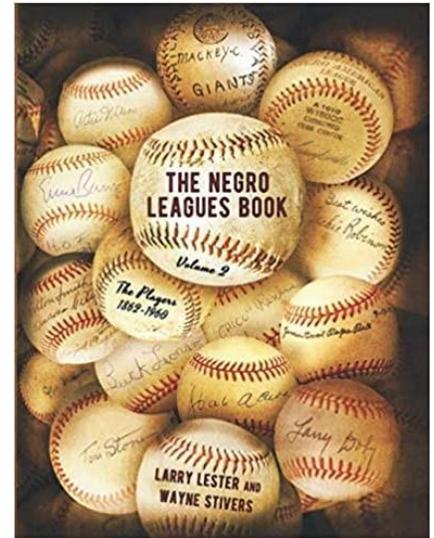
Send your filled out puzzle to [LarryLester42@gmail.com](mailto:LarryLester42@gmail.com) *Ready, Set . . . . Go!*

### 35 Negro Leaguers in the NBBHOF

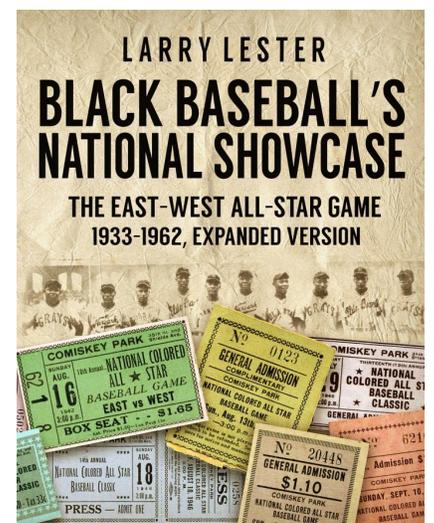
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BULLETROGAN  
JOE WILLIAMS  
WILLIE FOSTER  
JOSH GIBSON  
BIZ MACKAY  
LOUIS SANTOP  
BENTAYLOR  
MULESUTTLES  
FRANK GRANT  
MARTINDIHIGO  
JUDY JOHNSON  
RAYDANDRIDGE  
JUD WILSON  
POP LOYD  
WILLIE WELLS  
PETE HILL  
TURKEY STEARNES  
COOL PAPABELL  
OSCAR CHARLESTON  
WILLARD BROWN  
CARLOSTORRIENTE  
MONTE IRVIN  
RUBEN FOSTER  
SOL WHITE  
EFFAMANLEY

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Y O X Y L J O S Z Z P I O I G L I R U L E C T N O S H S E P Z A T D B B K X A J E V I S B M K H I R I E P H O  
P Q G J K S I R S I O S Z Z P I O I G L I R U L E C T N O S H S E P Z A T D B B K X A J E V I S B M K H I R I E P H O  
H M G I R S I O S Z Z P I O I G L I R U L E C T N O S H S E P Z A T D B B K X A J E V I S B M K H I R I E P H O



OR



## Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

### SEPTEMBER

3rd – **BILL GREASON – 96**

5TH – **BILLY RAY HAGGINS – 91**

7th – RICKY MAROTO – 88

9th – JIM PROCTOR – 85

21st – LOUIS CLARIZIO – 89

22nd – SWEET LOU JOHNSON – 88



### OCTOBER

7th – **RAY MADDIX – 92**

20TH – **CLIFF LAYTON – 91**

### NOVEMBER

4th – **ERNIE “SCHOOL-BOY” JOHNSON – 92**

16th – **RICHARD**

**“SKEETER” BANKS - 100**

20th – **BUDDY OWENS –**

**93**

23rd – WILLIAM “BABA” RICHARDSON – 86

30th – ERNIE WESTFIELD – 81



## SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

Larry Lester - chair, [LarryLester42@gmail.com](mailto:LarryLester42@gmail.com)  
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## Sunsets!

Sometimes players pass away without fanfare and recognition in the *Courier* newsletter. Thanks to Paul Turner from [ridedasnak@aol.com](mailto:ridedasnak@aol.com), the players listed below have gone on to the diamond in the sky. We welcome any updates or corrections. Thanks.

**WILLIAM (WEEDY) EDWARDS**—1944, 1947—p, **Kansas City Monarchs, Newark Eagles**  
Born in St. Louis -- Died: date and place unknown.

**SAMMIE T. (BAY) TAYLOR, JR.**—1953-54—c, **Kansas City Monarchs, Indianapolis Clowns**  
Born: August 15, 1929 in East St. Louis, IL -- Died: March 9, 1963, or April 8, 2019, place unknown.

**WILLIAM EPHRIAM (BILL, WILLIE) WHITE, SR.**—1952, 1957-59—of, **Kansas City Monarchs, Memphis Red Sox.**  
Born: June 8, 1934 in St. Louis, MO -- Died: 2006? date unknown in St. Louis, MO

**REV. HENRY “PISTOL” MASON, 88**, died May 29, 2020 in Richmond, VA.

Mason was a pitcher with the **Kansas City Monarchs** (1951-54) and the **Philadelphia Phillies** (1958, 1960). On June 27, 1954, he pitched a no-hitter against the Indianapolis Clowns, as only 28 men went to the plate, in a 6-0 win for his Monarchs.

After signing with the Phillies, he was optioned to the **Schenectady Blue Jays** in 1955, becoming the first Black player for them. Mason also played for the **Syracuse Chiefs** and alongside Satchel Paige as members of the **Miami Marlins**.

“Pistol” also threw his 95 mph fastball with the **Buffalo Bisons, Williamsport Grays**, before hanging up his cleats, in 1962, with the **Hawaii Islanders** of the Pacific Coast League.

Upon retirement from the diamond, he served as Assistant Pastor to Rev. Emanuel Cleaver, II (later Kansas City's first Black Mayor) at St. James-Paseo United Methodist Church in Kansas City, MO.

