

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

HOF & Malloy Conference Issue

March 2022

In the News –

Birthplace of Jackie Robinson rededicated in Cairo

Photo by: Georgia Historical Society

The Birthplace of Jackie Robinson historical marker, erected at the Roddenbery Memorial Library in Cairo, Georgia.



By: Georgia Historical Society

Posted at 4:03 PM, Jan 28, 2022

CAIRO, Ga. — The Georgia Historical Society (GHS), in conjunction with major league baseball and the Jackie Robinson Cairo Memorial Institute, Inc., dedicated the Birthplace of Jackie Robinson historical marker at the Roddenbery Memorial Library in Cairo, Georgia on Friday. This historical marker replaces one located at Jackie Robinson's birthplace damaged by gunfire in February 2021. While a new marker stands, the old one won't be tossed aside. Instead, the damaged marker, dedicated more than 20 years ago, will be sent to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The museum said the marker will serve as a reminder of the racial issues that America still faces today.

A private unveiling of the new, duplicate historical marker at the site of the Robinson birthplace took place preceding the public dedication.

"The Georgia Historical Society and the people of this state are deeply grateful to major league baseball and Commissioner Rob Manfred for supporting the recasting and long-term care of this important historical marker," said GHS President and CEO W. Todd Groce. "Because of their timely and invaluable help, the inspiring story and lasting legacy of Georgia native Jackie Robinson will continue to be told and honored for many years to come."

The Birthplace of Jackie Robinson historical marker was erected in 2001 in Grady County, Georgia, by GHS and the Jackie Robinson Cairo Memorial Institute, Inc. It is part of the Georgia Historical Society's Civil Rights Trail, an initiative that focuses broadly on the economic, social, political, and cultural history of the Civil Rights Movement. Major league baseball, through MLB Charities, assisted with the replacement of the vandalized marker by making the inaugural donation to the Jackie Robinson Fund, an endowment to provide perpetual care and protection for the historical marker.

Commissioner of Baseball Robert D. Manfred, Jr. said: "We are grateful for the Georgia Historical Society and their efforts to preserve the birthplace marker of Jackie Robinson in Cairo. We hope this historic monument will continue to serve as an example of a life filled with courage and strength for generations of young people."

The Marker Reads:

Birthplace of Jackie Robinson:

First African American in Modern-Day Major League Baseball Robinson was born 13 miles south of Cairo on January 31, 1919, before he and his family moved to California in 1920.

After attending U.C.L.A., serving in the U.S. Army, and playing in the Negro American Baseball and International Leagues, Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier. Adding to his many athletic accomplishments, he served as special assistant to New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, established the first African American Modern Bank/Freedom National Bank, and provided housing for the underprivileged through his construction firm. Robinson died in 1972. His birthplace burned in 1996, but the chimney still stands.

Re-erected in 2021 by the Georgia Historical Society, The Jackie Robinson Cairo Memorial Institute, Inc., and Major League Baseball

Anderson High School's baseball field will now be 'Willie Wells Field'

Author: Jake García (KVUE) - January 28, 2022

AUSTIN, Texas — An Austin native and Hall of Fame baseball player is finally getting some much-deserved recognition from his hometown.

On January 27th, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the renaming of the Anderson High School baseball field as the "**Willie Wells Field.**"

Wells was a legendary baseball player in the 1920s and 1930s and graduated from the original LC Anderson High School in 1923. "I think it's a great story for baseball in Austin," said Kenny Matthews, the head baseball coach at Anderson. "Somebody of this caliber to be honored at the school at which he graduated, it's bringing two communities together and, at the same time, putting a lot of emphasis on what this guy was able to accomplish."

A KVUE story in the summer of 2020 that documented how Austin had lost touch with its connection to Wells spurred the Anderson Alumni Club into action.

Wells had a decorated career in the Negro Leagues. He made **ten (10) All-Star** appearances, and was inducted into the Hall of Fames in Cuba and the U.S.

"When you learn the history of baseball, he's one of those names that doesn't get mentioned, but it seems like he's intertwined in all of it," Matthews said.

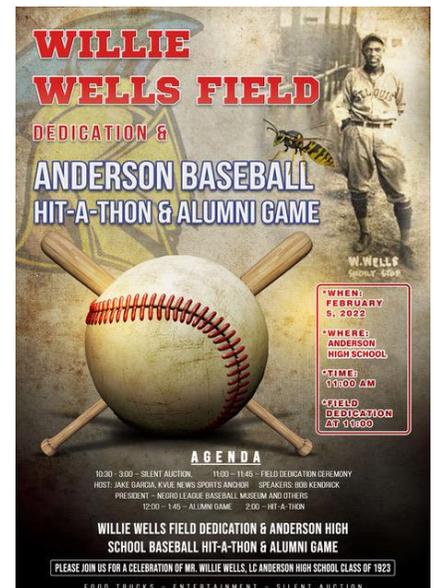
His induction into the pro baseball Hall of Fame, however, didn't come until well after his death and much of the underappreciation for Wells is due to the fact that he never played white major league baseball.

By the time Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, Wells was past his peak. He would retire shortly after and remain outside the conscience of most of baseball and most of his hometown.

Anderson High School wanted to help change that and made it a mission to honor Wells.

"It's incredibly shocking, borderline upsetting, that you have somebody of this caliber, of this ability, that's regarded in the history of baseball that for the wrong reasons isn't known by most people as you think he should [be]," Matthews said. "I think it's great that we're maybe able to take the right step in helping him become the figure that he needs to be."

Anderson High School held an official ceremony for the renaming of the field on Saturday, February 5th.



FOWLER, MIÑOSO, & O'NEIL ELECTED TO HALL OF FAME

Sunday, December 5, 2021 – **Condensed Press Release from the National Baseball Hall of Fame**

(ORLANDO, FL) – Six candidates earned election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday via the Eras Committee process, it was announced today on MLB Network. Gil Hodges, Jim Kaat, **Minnie Miñoso** and Tony Oliva were elected by the Golden Days Era Committee, which considered a 10-person ballot comprised of candidates whose primary contribution to the game came from 1950-69. **Bud Fowler** and **Buck O'Neil** were elected by the Early Baseball Era Committee, which considered a 10-person ballot of candidates whose primary contribution to the game came prior to 1950.

Miñoso starred in the Negro National League with the New York Cubans from 1946-48 before debuting with the Cleveland Indians in 1949. He played 17 seasons with the Indians, White Sox, Cardinals and Senators, becoming the first dark-skinned Latin American player to appear in an AL or NL game. Miñoso finished second in the AL Rookie of the Year voting in 1951 and earned the first of nine All-Star Game selections in the AL/NL Midsummer Classic that year. A three-time Gold Glove Award winner in left field, Miñoso led the AL in triples and stolen bases three times apiece and finished his career with 2,110 hits and a .299 batting average. Miñoso passed away on March 1, 2015.

Fowler, often acknowledged as the first Black professional baseball player, pitched and played second base for teams throughout the late 1800s after growing up in and around Cooperstown, N.Y. In 1894, Fowler helped form the Page Fence Giants (Adrian, MI), who would go on to become one of the all-time great Black barnstorming teams. Fowler passed away on February 26, 1913.

O'Neil played, managed, coached, scouted and served as an executive for nearly eight decades, becoming a beloved oral historian for the Negro Leagues at the end of the 20th century. He broke into the Negro American League with the Memphis Red Sox in 1937, then latched on at first base for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1938. He would remain with the club for nearly two decades. In 1948, O'Neil was named player-manager of the Monarchs – a role he would hold until 1955. He became the first Black coach in AL or NL history in 1962 with the Chicago Cubs. O'Neil passed away on October 6, 2006.

The 16-member Hall of Fame Board-appointed electorate charged with the review of the Golden Days Era ballot was comprised of Hall of Fame members Rod Carew, Fergie Jenkins, Mike Schmidt, John Schuerholz, Bud Selig, Ozzie Smith and Joe Torre; major league executives Al Avila, Bill DeWitt, Ken Kendrick, Kim Ng and Tony Reagins; and veteran media members/historians Adrian Burgos Jr., Steve Hirdt, Jaime Jarrin and Jack O'Connell. Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark served as the non-voting chairman of the Golden Days Era Committee.

Results of the **Golden Days Era Ballot** (12 votes needed for election): **Minnie Miñoso** (14 votes, 87.5%); Gil Hodges (12 votes, 75%); Jim Kaat (12 votes, 75%); Tony Oliva (12 votes, 75%); Dick Allen (11 votes, 68.8%); Ken Boyer, Roger Maris, Danny Murtaugh, Billy Pierce and Maury Wills each received three-or-fewer votes.

The 16-member Hall of Fame Board-appointed electorate commissioned with the review of the **Early Baseball Era** was comprised of Hall of Fame members Bert Blyleven, Fergie Jenkins, John Schuerholz, Ozzie Smith and Joe Torre; major league

executives Bill DeWitt, Ken Kendrick and Tony Reagins; and veteran media members/historians Gary Ashwill, Adrian Burgos Jr., Leslie Heaphy, Jim Henneman, Justice Hill, Steve Hirdt, Rick Hummel and John Thorn. Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark and Hall of Famer Bud Selig served as non-voting co-Chairs for the Early Baseball Era Committee.

Results of the **Early Baseball Era Ballot** (12 votes needed for election): **Buck O'Neil** (13 votes, 81.3%); **Bud Fowler** (12 votes, 75%); **Vic Harris** (10 votes, 62.5%); **John Donaldson** (8 votes, 50%); Allie Reynolds (6 votes, 37.4%); Lefty O'Doul (5 votes, 31.3%); **George Scales** (4 votes, 25%); Bill Dahlen, **Grant Home Run Johnson** and **Cannonball Dick Redding** each received three-or-fewer votes.

The **Early Days Era Committee** will next consider candidates in 2031 for the 2032 Induction year, as that process occurs **every 10 years**.

In the fall of 2022, the Today's Game Era Committee will consider candidates whose main career contributions occurred from 1988 through the present. In 2023, the Modern Baseball Era Committee will consider candidates whose main career contributions occurred from 1970-87. Committees are annually scheduled to convene at the Winter Meetings.

The 10 Golden Days Era finalists were selected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America-appointed Historical Overview Committee from all eligible candidates among Managers, Umpires, Executives and Long-Retired Players whose most significant career impact was realized from 1950-69. Eligible candidates include: Players who played in at least 10 major league seasons; Managers, Umpires and Executives with 10 or more years in baseball – all of whom must not be on major league baseball's ineligible list.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Board of Directors convened a Special Early Baseball Overview Committee of 10 historians to develop the Early Baseball Era Committee's 10-person ballot. The Special Early Baseball Overview Committee consists of five Negro Leagues historians and five veteran members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America who have previously served on the National Baseball Hall of Fame's Historical Overview Committee.

The **Special Early Baseball Overview Committee** included the following Negro League historians: Gary Ashwill, Adrian Burgos Jr., Phil Dixon, Leslie Heaphy and Claire Smith. They were joined by Historical Overview Committee members Jim Henneman (formerly *Baltimore Sun*), Steve Hirdt (*Stats Perform*), Rick Hummel (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*), Jim Reeves (formerly *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*) and Glenn Schwarz (formerly *San Francisco Chronicle*).

The **Historical Overview Committee**, which developed the **Golden Days Era ballot**, includes Henneman, Hirdt, Hummel, Reeves and Schwarz, as well as Bob Elliott (*Canadian Baseball Network*); David O'Brien (*The Athletic*); Jack O'Connell (*BBWAA*); Tracy Ringolsby (*InsidetheSeams.com*); Susan Slusser (*San Francisco Chronicle*); and Mark Whicker (*Los Angeles News Group*).

Hall of Fame Weekend 2022 will be held July 22-25 in Cooperstown, N.Y., with the *Induction Ceremony* slated for Sunday, July 24, 2022.

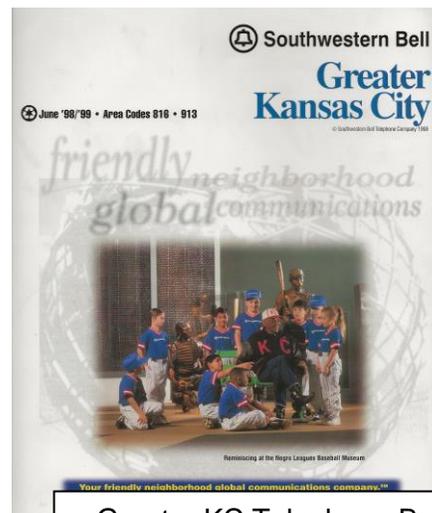
A few Pre-Hall of Fame Induction Honors & Tributes for Buck O'Neil



There are 37,902 blue seats in Kauffman Stadium. There is only one red seat, the “Buck O’Neil Legacy Seat.”



Mural on Southside of YMCA in KC



Greater KC Telephone Book, 1998



Bust at the Hall of Famous Missourians in Jefferson City, Missouri



Buck O'Neil Streetcar #22, in downtown Kansas City

A few Pre-Hall of Fame Induction Honors & Tributes for Minnie Miñoso



Miñoso giving press conference at WH, 2013



Meeting President Obama at White House, 2013



Statue at Guaranteed Rate Field, Chicago



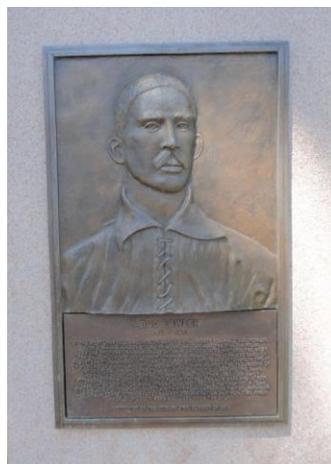
At Guaranteed Rate Field, Chicago



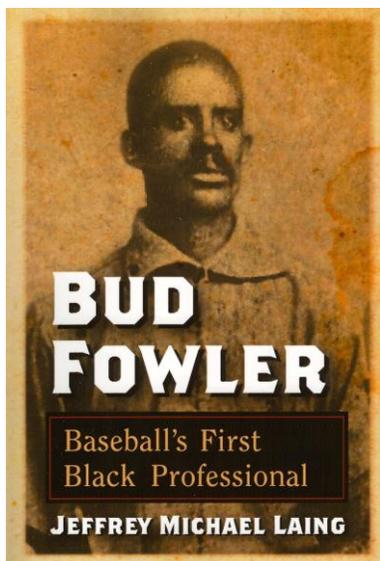
Miñoso concession stand at Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago

A few Pre-Hall of Fame Induction Honors & Tributes for Bud Fowler

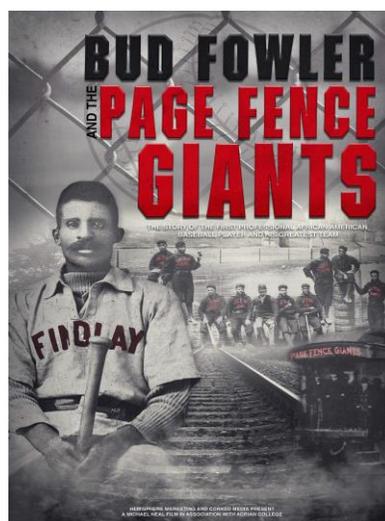
Fowler Way in Cooperstown, NY



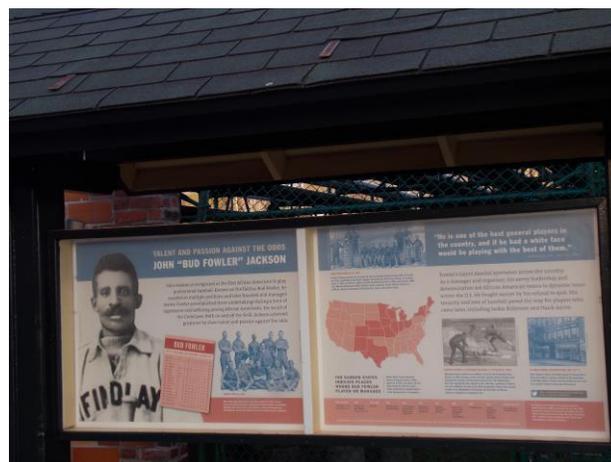
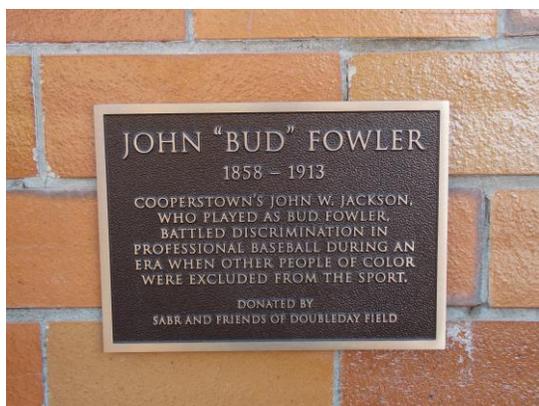
Plaque at Fraser Field, Lynn (Oaks), MA



The Complete & Only Book on Fowler



Documentary



Plaque and info placard at Doubleday Field, Cooperstown, NY

CONFERENCE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Efforts are well underway to identify panelists to serve on two exciting and informative panels to discuss 1) [Why the Negro Leagues are Major Leagues](#) and 2) [Black Ball in the Hall: Justice in Cooperstown?](#). We hope you can join us in person in Birmingham, Alabama. See Registration form on the last pages of this newsletter.



<https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/>



[Baseball Reference dramatically expands stat coverage of the Negro Leagues](#)

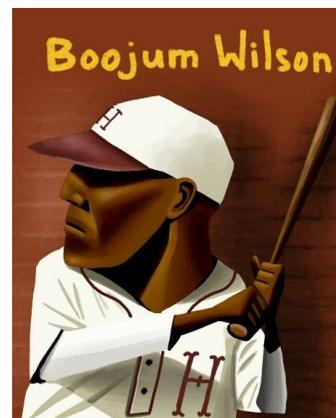
<https://www.baseball-reference.com/negro-leagues-are-major-leagues.shtml>

[2021 Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference Art Contest winners announced](#)

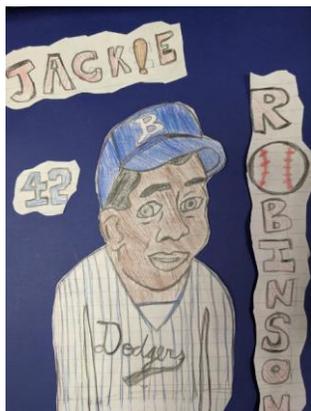
The 11th annual [Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference](#) Art Contest attracted artwork from all over the nation. Art from the winners will be on display at the upcoming Jerry Malloy Conference, which will be held June 2-4, 2022, in Birmingham, Alabama.

The winning entry in the amateur category received a \$150 prize and a certificate from the conference and the youth winner received \$100 and a certificate from the conference. Photos of the art will also be included in an upcoming issue of *Black Ball: A Negro Leagues Journal*, published by McFarland & Co.

Amateur Category: "Boojum Wilson"
Brian Callaghan, from Richmond, VA



Brian Callaghan is an entrepreneur and investor with a lifelong love of baseball. He is currently an owner of two minor league teams, the Richmond Flying Squirrels (Class AA for the San Francisco Giants), and the Omaha Storm Chasers (AAA for the Kansas City Royals). As a hobby Brian enjoys drawing, painting and illustrating, and frequently uses his passion for baseball as subject matter. He resides in Richmond, Virginia, with his wife and five children.



Youth Category: "Jackie Robinson"
Gabrielle Davis, from Moody, AL

Gabrielle Davis is 12 years old and is a student in the sixth grade. Her favorite hobbies are crocheting, drawing, and playing chess. She enjoyed doing this artwork on Jackie Robinson because it was a new subject to her and she liked researching the players.

MLB Can Do Better: A Case for Renaming the Cy Young Award

by Bill Staples, Jr.

“They (the Japs) are like the Cubans – too small to be big players ... That’s the trouble with all foreigners. Base ball will always be an American game.”

– Cy Young, *The Sporting Life*, February 12, 1910

In October 2020, Mike Schmidt, three-time NL MVP Award winner, said, “If you’re looking to expose individuals in baseball’s history who promoted racism by continuing to close baseball’s doors to men of color, Kenesaw Landis would be a candidate.”

The Hall of Fame third baseman shared his views when the Baseball Writers’ Association of America (BBWAA) voted to remove former MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis’ name from the plaques given to the American and National League MVP Awards.

Landis’ namesake was called into question that same year when former NL MVP Award winners Barry Larkin, Terry Pendleton, and Mike Schmidt told the *Associated Press* that they would be in favor of removing the name of MLB’s first commissioner from the plaques.

According to MLB historian John Thorn, Landis’ legacy includes a long history of “documented racism.” The Major Leagues remained segregated during his tenure as commissioner (1920 to 1944), and three weeks after his death on November 25, 1944, the BBWAA voted to add his name to the MVP plaques.

With the Landis precedent firmly established, more evidence of “documented racism” from baseball’s past has surfaced again, this time associated with Hall of Fame pitcher Cy Young. And with it, we now have to ask an uncomfortable, yet necessary, question: What are the implications for MLB and the future of the Cy Young Award?

BIRTH OF THE CY YOUNG AWARD

Hall of Fame pitcher Denton True (Cy) Young died on November 4, 1955. Similar to the Landis-MVP award naming timeline, roughly a month after his death discussions about a “Cy Young Memorial Award” for the league’s top pitcher surfaced in the press. MLB Commissioner Ford Frick advocated strongly for the new award, but for less sentimental reasons. Frick was disappointed in how pitcher Robin Roberts fared in the 1955 NL MVP award voting. Roberts, who compiled a 23-14 record that season, finished fifth in the MVP voting (behind Roy Campanella, Duke Snider, Ernie Banks, and Willie Mays). Frick and others believed a new award was needed to recognize the league’s top pitchers. So, with the death of the game’s winningest pitcher fresh on the minds of MLB leaders, the Cy Young Award was established in February 1956.

CY YOUNG GOES WEST – AND TALKS

After the 1909 season, Cy Young traveled west to visit his brother Anthony Otto Young, a fruit farmer in Oregon. His travel required stops in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland. Along the way, Cy took in some local baseball games and spoke to reporters. The anti-Asian sentiment was on the rise on the West Coast, and it appears that Cy felt comfortable sharing his xenophobic views with reporters when asked about the visiting Keio University team from Japan:

“I saw a Jap ball team the other day, and someone said that the Japs would soon be a big factor in base ball. I don’t believe it. They are not big enough. They are not strong enough to be good pitchers or batters ... They are like the Cubans – too small to be big players. The Cubans have had a good ball team, except they never could learn to bat. That the trouble with all foreigners. Base ball will always be an American game.” – “JAPANESE PLAYERS Are Not Highly Regarded by the Veteran Pitcher, Cy Young,” *The Sporting Life*, Feb. 12, 1910, 2.

Additional thoughts that Cy shared during his trip were captured in an article published across the nation a few days later.

“Baseball belongs to this country. Its supremacy in baseball will never be threatened ... A Jap can’t pitch. There is one reason for this, of course. That reason is that they can’t grip the ball. The hands of the Japs are very small. So small in fact that for one of them to grip the ball as the pitchers in this country group is impossible. That reason does not hold good with the Cuban. Yet their pitchers are a bad lot. They have no curve ball, and, of course, use little headwork ... A change of pace is unknown. The art of working the batter is a stranger to the island pitcher. I’m not a bit afraid that the Japs will invade this country and replace the Americans, who are now the stars of the game.” “JAPS WILL NEVER SHINE IN BASEBALL,” *Altoona Tribune* (PA), Feb. 22, 1910, 2

Before anyone attempts to explain away Cy Young’s views as commonplace for the times in which he lived, they were not common across the entire U.S. population. They were, however, commonplace on the West Coast, as the article referenced above also stated that the “native sons” of California at the time were “not exactly fond of the little brown fellows.”

Some Major League players who had traveled to both Japan and Cuba during this same period held world views that were more progressive and inclusive than Cy Young’s. After a visit to Japan during the World Tour of 1913-1914, New York Giants manager John McGraw declared:

“I believe that with proper coaching they (Japanese players) could be turned into good hitters ... Mark my prediction. Some star ball players will come out of Japan within the next ten years.”



“THE BASEBALL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SIZE YOU ARE”

It's also worth noting that many American-born major leaguers were roughly the same size as some ballplayers in Asia and Latin America at the time. A few of those players include Hall of Famers:

- “Wee Willie” Keeler, Outfielder, 5’4”, 140 lb., National Baseball Hall of Fame
- William “Candy” Cummings, Pitcher and Outfielder, 5’ 9”, 120 lb., National Baseball Hall of Fame
- For comparison: Shunzo Takaki, Second base, Outfielder, 5’ 7”, 160 lb., University of Pennsylvania, 1908
- For comparison: Tadashi “Bozo” Wakabayashi, Pitcher, 5’ 9”, 172 lb., Hosei University, 1928, Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame

UNCOMFORTABLE COMPARISONS

I find many comments from the 1910 Cy Young interview to be problematic, but one does not sit well with me because of the uncomfortable similarities between the views of this Hall of Fame pitcher and that of the disgraced Dodgers executive, Al Campanis. Compare:

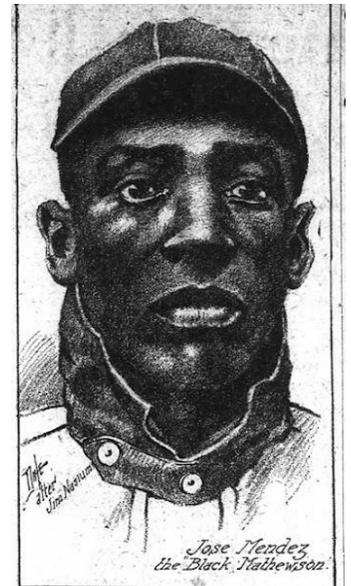
- Cy Young in 1910: *“They (Cubans) have no curve ball, and, of course, use little headwork.”*
- Al Campanis in 1987: *“They may not have some of the ‘necessities’ to be a field manager or a general manager ... how many pitchers do you have that are black?”*

In that historic interview, Ted Koppel responded to Campanis, “That really sounds like garbage.” In reading the views shared by Cy Young, I would quote Koppel. And that is not just me speaking from the perspective of 2022 - there were players back in 1912 - who would agree.

JOSE MÉNDEZ - "WONDERFUL SPEED ... PERFECT CONTROL"

Contrary to Cy Young's sweeping generalization about Cuban pitchers, future Hall of Famer Méndez was no stranger to “the art of working the batter.” Méndez was, and is, considered among the best pitchers in all of baseball. Below is the perspective shared by Larry Doyle of the NY Giants, who faced Méndez during a trip to Cuba in 1912.

*“Méndez surely deserves the name “Black Matty.” I think Christy (Mathewson) is the king of all pitchers in America and surely Méndez occupies a like position in Cuba. I’m not sure that Méndez wouldn’t create a terrible stir in the big leagues, were it not for his color. **He has wonderful speed, a tantalizing slow ball and perfect control. I’ve never seen a pitcher with better control. He can mix ‘em up so that you wish you were at home with your mother about the fifth inning.**”*



PRESENT-DAY IMPLICATIONS

MLB CULTURE: DIVERSE & INCLUSIVE

Branch Rickey once said, “It (a baseball box score) doesn't tell how big you are, what church you attend, what color you are, or how your father voted in the last election. It just tells what kind of baseball player you were on that particular day.”

The legacy of open-minded, good-hearted people like Branch Rickey, John McGraw, and Larry Doyle align with the stated values of MLB today. The views of Cy Young do not.

The words of these progressive baseball owners, managers and players from the past echo throughout the present-day mission statement of the MLB's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) initiative – “to create and nurture a diverse and inclusive culture, on and off the field, wherein the power of our collective creates a meaningful impact for our people, our fans, and our communities.”

MLB INTERNATIONAL

MLB is proud of its international appeal, both off and on the field. On opening day 2021, MLB celebrated that it was “A Global Game,” reporting that 256 (28.3%) players represented 20 countries and territories outside the U.S.

By the end of the 2021 season, Japanese sensation and two-way star Shohei Ohtani won the AL MVP Award. Ohtani's performance, – coupled with the previous record-setting play of Ichiro Suzuki (MLB record for most hits in a season), Hideo Nomo (pitched no-hitters in both the AL & NL), and Hideki Matsui (2009 World Series MVP) – shines a spotlight on the enormous level of ignorance contained in Cy Young's 1910 statement: *“That's the trouble with all foreigners. Base ball will always be an American game.”*

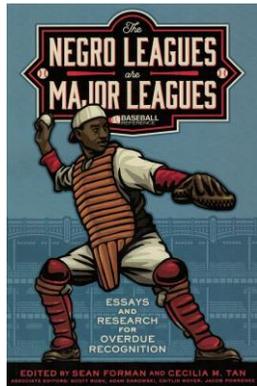
CONCLUSION

A precedent has been set by removing Judge Landis from the MVP Award. The evidence of “documented racism” associated with Hall of Fame pitcher Cy Young is undeniable. The passage of time has turned Cy Young into a relic, a symbol of the bigoted attitudes that should remain in America's and baseball's past. Knowing what we know today, will players of color, born inside or outside the U.S., still consider it an honor to receive an award tainted with his name?

Note: Sources for information and the complete article first appeared on the blog “International Pastime” at <http://billstaples.blogspot.com/2022/01/renaming-the-cy-young-award.html>

The Negro Leagues are Major Leagues: Essays and Research for Overdue Recognition by editors **Sean Forman and Cecilia M. Tan**

This book is a unique introduction to the history of the segregation of pro baseball, telling the story of the Negro Leagues while simultaneously recounting how researchers, statisticians and historians rebuilt and re-discovered the history Black baseball that was pushed into obscurity.

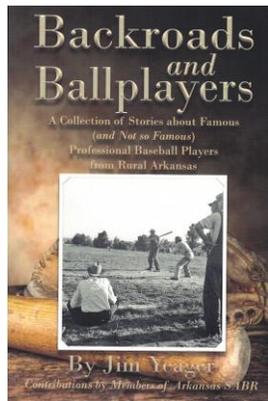


In December 2020, MLB itself declared its recognition of the Negro leagues as major leagues and will work to integrate the statistical records. Contributing writers include: Adam Jones, Sean Gibson, Vanessa Ivy Rose, Jules Tygiel, Jerry Malloy Todd Peterson, Gary Ashwill, Leslie Heaphy, Adrian Burgos, Jr., Gary Gillette, Adam Darowski, Ryan Swanson, Michael E. Lomax, and others.

The complete analysis of why the *Negro Leagues are Major Leagues* can be purchased or downloaded at: [SABR bookstore](http://SABRbookstore)

Backroads and Ballplayers: A Collection of Stories about Famous (and Not so Famous) Professional Baseball Players from Rural Arkansas by **Jim Yeager**

Travel down almost any backroad in Arkansas and you will pass a relic of baseball history. The dilapidated backstops and the remains of long-neglected dugouts are a disappearing visual image of a rural sports history long forgotten. Inside are some wonderful stories about the **Dean brothers**, along with



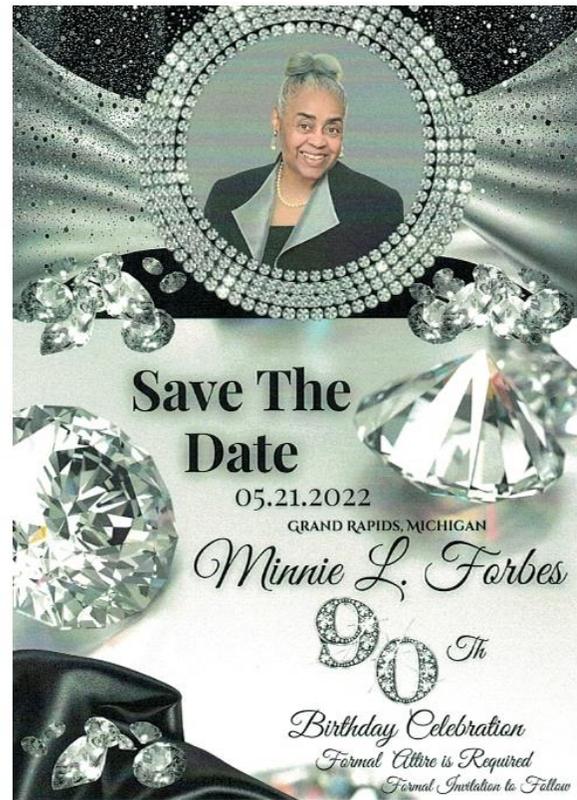
some detailed accounts of journeys about Negro Leaguers like Chicago American Giant **Floyd "Jelly" Gardner**, Kansas City Monarch **Alfred "Slick" Surratt** and the six **Spearman** brothers **Charles** (catcher), **Clyde** (outfielder), **Codie** (outfielder), **Frederick** (3b, ss), **Henry** (3b), and **Willie** (pitcher) from a variety of Negro League teams.

They suffered through segregation mostly in the South both on and off the field. These men withstood horrible treatment because of their dreams to become Major League baseball players. So many great stories!

Author Jim Yeager can be reached at: jim.yeager@suddenlink.net

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A **BIRTHDAY CARD.**



Send well wishes & Gifts to Ms. Forbes' daughter: Nedra Kennedy at 420 Paris Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MARCH

- 7TH – JAMES LEON WOODS – 88
- 18TH – **EZELL KING – 92**

APRIL

- 15TH – J.C. HARTMAN – 88
- 25TH – SAM ALLEN – 86
- 27TH – TONY LLOYD – 86



MAY

- 1ST – **HERBERT "PIANO RED" WALKER - 90**
- 6TH – **WILLIE MAYS – 91**
- 13TH – **J.W. WINGATE - 93**
- 17TH – GENE SCRUGGS – 84
- 21ST – **MINNIE L. FORBES - 90**
- 25TH – LARRY LEGRANDE – 84
- 29TH – **HAROLD HAIR – 90**

NOTE: Congratulations to our Nonagenarians: **WILLIE MAYS, EZELL KING, J.W. WINGATE, HERB WALKER, HAROLD HAIR, AND THE WONDERFUL MS. MINNIE FORBES.**



America's *original* Negro Baseball League Conference

June 2nd (Thu) thru 4th (Sat) – 2022, Birmingham, AL
General Information

SABR's **Negro Leagues Committee** encourages the study and research of African American baseball and its influence on society and sports history. The Conference promotes activities to enhance scholarly, educational, and literary objectives.

The annual **JERRY MALLOY NEGRO LEAGUE CONFERENCE** is hosted by the **SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH (SABR'S) NEGRO LEAGUES COMMITTEE**. Since 1998, the Conference is the *only* symposium dedicated exclusively to the examination and promotion of Black baseball history.

Commonly Asked Questions

How Can I Register?

Internet: click here - [The SABR Store](#)

SABR accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover Card (no AMEX)

By Mail: Send the **Registration Form** on the next page with full payment to:

SABR, Attn: Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

555 No. Central Ave, Suite 416, Phoenix, AZ 85004

What Are the Key Cut-Off Dates?

Call for Papers & Poster Presentations	March 1, 2022
\$1,000 Scholarship Entry Deadline	April 15, 2022
\$500 Library Grants (bottom of page)	June 7, 2022
Art Contest Deadline (bottom of page)	June 14, 2022

Early Conference Registration Ends Friday

April 29, 2022



Ads for Conference Booklet (**see page 14**)

April 10, 2022

Regular Conference Registration Ends Tuesday

May 31, 2022



[Sheraton - Marriott](#) Registration Deadline **Tuesday**

May 10, 2022



Is the Conference only for members of SABR?

No, the conference is OPEN to **all** baseball, history and sports fans of all ages.



“Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference” for the latest news & photos.

Historical information about the conference can be found at:

<https://www.larrylester42.com/malloy-conference.html>



June 2nd (Thu) thru 4th (Sat) – 2022 Birmingham, AL

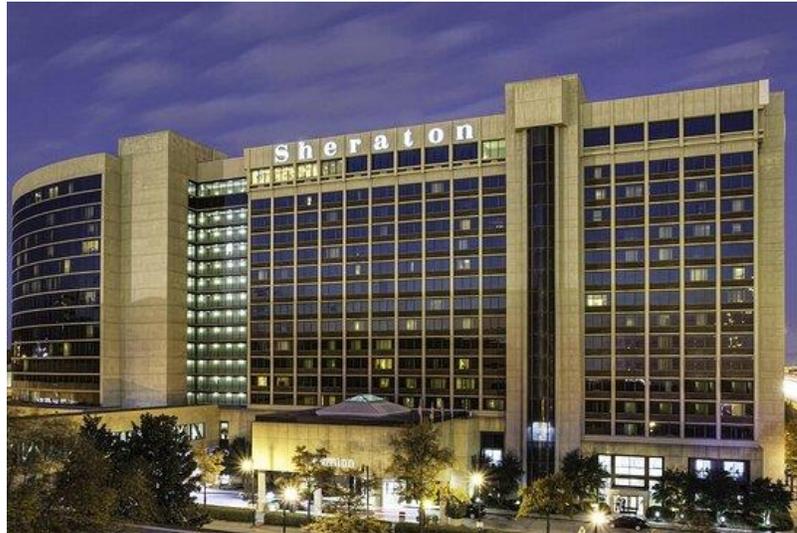
# of Packages	Registration Packages	EARLY by April 29	REGULAR by May 31	On-Site	Total
	Education Forum package – Thursday only Includes Teachers' Guide & Lesson Plans.	\$15	\$20	\$30	
	Adult Package Includes all presentations, educational forum, Thursday's Meet & Greet, Friday afternoon's Bus tour of the BCRI, Rickwood Field, Regions Field and the Negro Southern League Museum.	\$175	\$195	\$220	
	Student Package - (with ID) Full time students only. Includes all presentations, educational forum, Thursday's Meet & Greet, Friday afternoon's Bus tour of the BCRI, Rickwood Field, Regions Field and the Negro Southern League Museum.	\$125	\$140	\$170	
	Single Day Conference Package – Friday or Saturday Conference presentations only.	\$75	\$95	\$100	
Sub-Total					
# of Additional Tickets	Additional Cost for Family & Friends	Individual Ticket Prices		Total	
	Saturday Night's Awards Banquet			\$67	
	Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) admission			\$13	
	BCRI, Rickwood & Regions Field, NSLM tour - Friday afternoon			\$9	
	Thursday night's "Meet & Greet" reception			\$20	
You may also donate funds in ANY AMOUNT for: SABR is a 501 C-3					
	Grave Marker Project – click name for 2011 article				
	Student Scholarships – look for Essay Contests				
	HELP Sponsor a Player of your Choice, \$100 to \$750				
Grand Total					

Click here: [SABR Store for Registration](#) or type <https://www.sabr.org/malloy> in web browser

Or pay by mail: Make your checks or money orders out to **SABR – Malloy Conference**.
555 No. Central Ave, Suite 416, Phoenix, AZ 85004
or (602) 496-1460

Note: Non-SABR members pay the on-site registration fee

COVID-19 policy: All attendees must supply proof of a negative test. Those who can provide proof of vaccination are exempt from this requirement. Attendees will be required to follow any additional local public health declarations, including mask mandates. SABR reserves the right to notify guests of its own mask requirement for the event. These policies are subject to change depending on public health conditions. Proof of a negative test means a printout or email from a healthcare provider, pharmacy, or test proctor showing a negative PCR test result within 72 hours or a negative proctored antigen test within 48 hours. A self-administered negative test is not acceptable.



SHERATON BIRMINGHAM HOTEL

A MARRIOTT PROPERTY
2101 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd North
Birmingham, AL 35203

Hotel Registration

June 2nd (Thu) thru 4th (Sat) - 2022

To register online click: [Malloy Conference](#) to get the discounted rates
(OR copy and paste the following link below into your web browser)
<https://book.passkey.com/event/50286228/owner/16607/home>

Conference Room Rates are:

Single or Doubles or Triples: \$155 a night, plus taxes

Cut-Off Date for Sheraton's Discounted Rooms is:

May 10th, 2022

Don't Delay - Register Today!

Call: 205-324-5000

PARKING

Overnight Self-Parking is available nearby at Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center (BJCC) Parking Deck – right behind the hotel (within walking distance).

Special subsidized rates per our contract:

Overnight Guest/Self-Parking	\$8.00 - Unlimited Exits
Banquet & Meeting Guests	First hour - \$3.00, each additional hour - \$1.00
Valet parking is available at \$35.00	



PROMOTE YOUR ORGANIZATION WITH AN AD

Dear Supporters & Friends of the Negro Leagues:

We would like to extend an invitation to you to become a participant in the 22nd annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference. We are seeking your support with a LOW-COST ad in the conference booklet.

This conference is scheduled from **June 2nd thru June 4th** at the **Sheraton Birmingham Hotel**.

This year's conference will include roughly 12 research presentations, four-five former players, exhibits, a historic personal tour of Birmingham ball parks and museums centered on our theme "**The Negro Leagues are Major Leagues.**"

In attendance will be authors, historians, researchers and scholars, former players, educators, fans, collectors, sponsors and vendors. We are excited about adding you to our list of participants. We are asking for your support with an ad in the booklet given out to all conference attendees, local libraries, local media and museums among others.

The print block for ads is 4 3/8 inches by 7 1/2 inches.

- Half page ad - \$75
- Full page ad - \$125
- Business Card - \$30

Submission deadline is April 10, 2022

Submissions received after the deadline will have a copy of their ad included in the goody bags given to all members. Submissions should be print ready and sent as an e-mail attachment, or a high resolution format on CD. Acceptable formats are JPG or TIF or DOC or PDF.

If you have questions, please call Larry Lester at 816-589-7940
or e-mail him at LarryLester42@gmail.com.

Ads can be sent to: **Larry Lester, P.O. Box 380146, Kansas City, MO 64138**. Checks are made out to SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) and indicate in the memo it is for "*Malloy conference ads.*" **Monies raised help support bringing Negro League players to the conference, along with providing funds for library grants, and student scholarships.** Thanks in advance for your support.

GOODY BAG DONATIONS:

If an ad is not in your budget at this time, we are accepting items such as brochures, schedules, pins, magazines, books, magnet, souvenirs, caps, etc., for our goody bags. See the next page.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support.



GOODY BAG DONATIONS:

Dear Contributor/Sponsor:

We would like to extend an invitation to sponsor or contribute to the biggest and best Black baseball conference in America: the **Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference (JMNL)**. The JMNL, a **non-profit entity of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)**, is the first and remains the only event dedicated exclusively to the examination of Black baseball history.

Conference programs include 1) educational forum, 2) Negro League site tour, 3) research presentations, 4) special panels, 5) an art contest, 6) Significa Contest, and 7) an awards banquet to recognize individuals in the field. We also award four \$1,000 scholarships and two \$500 library grants and raise funds to purchase headstones for unmarked graves.

See video at: <https://www.larrylester42.com/grave-markers.html>

This year, our 22nd, we are in Birmingham, AL, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, from June 2 - 4, to celebrate **The Negro Leagues are Major Leagues.**

Help us celebrate another season with a special gift from your organization. We welcome:

- baseballs,
- miniature bats,
- magnets,
- pens and pencils,
- key chains,
- t-shirts, or jerseys
- caps,
- memberships,
- gift cards, etc.

We need between 100-150 items, by May 15th, to fill our goody bags. Or perhaps one or two larger items for our silent auction to help fund our **scholarships**, our **library grants** and the **grave marker project**. As an academic sports conference **BOOKS** are always welcomed!

HELP US PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY or ORGANIZATION.

Items can be sent to **Larry Lester, P.O. Box 380146, Kansas City, MO 64138**

Additional information about our programs can be found at: <https://www.sabr.org/malloy> where you can also make monetary donations to support the programs mentioned above.

We look forward to hearing from you. Batter Up!

Larry Lester
Conference Chairman





Vendor Application

Name of Company/Business _____

Name of Contact _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Type of product for sale: (Describe below)

The cost is **\$100** per table for **each** day (Friday or Saturday)
or **\$120** for both days for one table. {**June 2 thru June 4, at Sheraton - Marriott**}
setup available Thursday morning, June 2nd in **Forum J, 3rd Floor**

How many tables will you need? (1 or 2) The tables are six (6') feet long.

I will be renting a table for Friday _____ YES _____ NO

I will be renting a table for Saturday _____ YES _____ NO

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Ads for Program Book

Half page Ad \$ 75

Full Page Ad \$125 (vertical print block is 4 3/8 " by 7 1/2")

Business Card \$ 30

Deadline for submission of ad copy is **April 10th** Submissions should be print ready and sent as an email attachment or a high resolution format on CD to the contact person below.

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Vendor and Ad checks should be payable to the **Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)** and mailed to **Larry Lester** for processing at:

P.O. Box 380146
Kansas City, MO 64138