

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

Memorial Day Issue

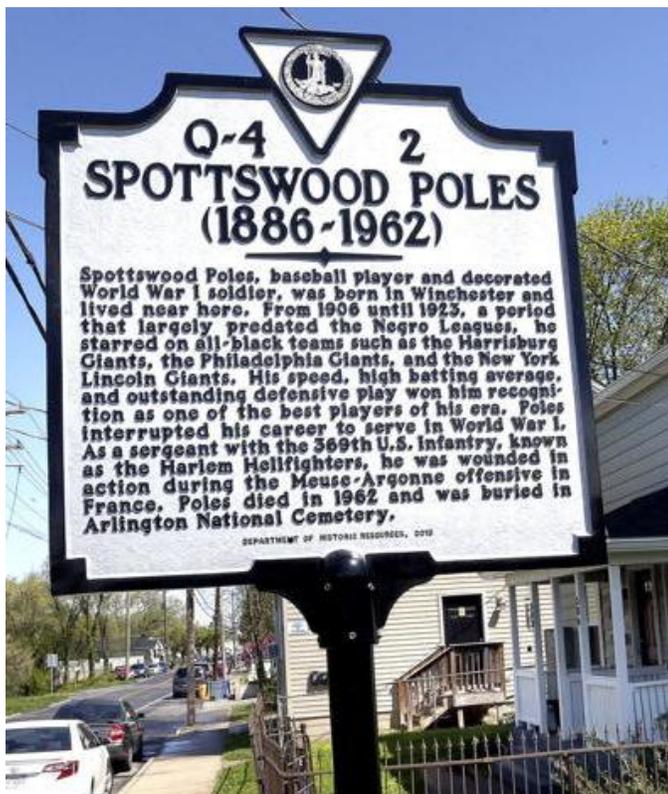
June 2020

In the News

Roadside marker honoring baseball's Spot Poles installed in city

By [BRIAN BREHM](#) *The Winchester Star*

Apr 10, 2020



A marker honoring Winchester native and baseball star Spottswood Poles has been erected in the 500 block of North Kent Street near where he lived. Poles, a legend in the Black Baseball of the early 20th century, was born on Dec. 9, 1887, at 530 Fremont St., Harrisburg, PA.

Image by Jeff Taylor/*The Winchester Star*

A roadside marker honoring one of the best baseball players of all time has been erected in Winchester.

The silver-and-black sign at 502 N. Kent St. provides a brief history of Spottswood Poles, a legend in the Negro baseball leagues of the early 20th century who was born on Dec. 9, 1887, at 530 Fremont St. in Winchester.

In 1906, Poles joined the **Harrisburg Colored Giants** baseball team in Pennsylvania. He became a professional player in 1909 with the **Philadelphia Giants**, then signed with the **New York Lincoln Giants** when the Philadelphia team folded in 1911.

Poles enjoyed his best years in New York, batting .440 in his first season with the **Lincoln Giants**, .398 in his second, .414 in his third and, in his final season with the team, a stunning .487.

After leaving the Lincoln Giants, Poles played for the **New York Lincoln Stars**, **Brooklyn Royal Giants** and **Hilldale Daisies** (sic **Club**) before enlisting in the Army's 369th Infantry Regiment — the legendary Harlem Hellfighters — during World War I.

During his one year of military service, Poles earned five battle stars and a Purple Heart.

He resumed his baseball career in 1919 with the Lincoln Giants and stayed with the team until retiring in 1923.

After leaving baseball, Poles operated a taxi business in Harrisburg, Pa., that enabled him to retire comfortably. He died in Harrisburg on Sept. 12, 1962 and was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Even though Poles played professional baseball for 14 seasons and is credited with an outstanding lifetime batting average of over .400, the Negro Leagues did not keep good records. Historians have only been able to fully document two complete seasons from Poles's prolific career, and the minimum required for inclusion in the National Baseball Hall of Fame is four.

His hometown of Winchester did little to celebrate its sports hero until last summer, when a road in Jim Barnett Park was named in Poles's honor and the Valley League's [Winchester Royals](#) hosted its first "Spottswood Poles Night."

A few days ago, the Winchester Public Works Department installed the roadside marker on North Kent Street, giving it more visibility than if it was placed in front of Poles's birthplace on Fremont Street. The marker was privately funded by Winchester businessman and former City Council member Art Major and was created in conjunction with the [Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society](#) and [Virginia Department of Historic Resources](#).

In a media release, Rebecca Ebert of the Historical Society said a public celebration will be held once the COVID-19 pandemic has run its course.

"Until then," she wrote, "visit the site and enjoy the reminder of the accomplishments of an amazing native of Winchester." EDITOR'S NOTE:

14 seasons of Spottswood Poles' stats can be found at: <http://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/player.php?playerID=poles01spo>

Opening Day - 100 Years Ago.

This year we celebrate the Centennial celebration of the founding of the Negro National League (NNL) in 1920. The first official NNL game was played at Washington Park in Indianapolis, IN, between **Charles "Joe" Green's Chicago Giants** and **C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABCs**. The Opening Day headline in the *Chicago Defender* read "**A.B.C. TRIUMPH IN FIRST HOME GAMES: A THROG ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN EIGHT THOUSAND SEE FIRST GAMES OF THE NEW CIRCUIT.**" Writer Dave Wyatt exhaled, "One of the largest and most enthused gathering of baseball devotees who ever assembled to do homage to the grand old national game witnessed the initial contests that ushered into being what is purported to be the most important and far-reaching step ever negotiated by the baseball promoters of our Race since the birth of the game more than forty years ago."

The ABCs behind the pitching of 19-year old **Ed "Huck" Rile**, a husky 210-pound, six foot-six inch righty, defeated the Giants, 4-2. Rile pitched a complete game, giving up seven hits, striking out five and walking three batters. While veteran **Walter Ball**, who started his career in 1902, gave up 10 hits, struck out three and walked four batters. This would be the 42-year old Ball's last year in professional competition.



In the first game, **Ben Taylor** (right) and **Oscar Charleston** (left) for the **Indy ABCs**, both went 1-for-4 with an RBI each. More than 75 years before Charleston got his call to the Hall, Wyatt wrote, "Charleston, the great hitter and fielder, although playing in a crippled condition, revealed streaks of his former greatness that made him the most feared man at the bat and on the base paths. Wyatt also added his take on the 2006 Cooperstown inductee, "Ben Taylor is hitting them often and far away."



In the second game, **Lem McDougal** started for the Giants with **Walt Jones** on the mound for the ABCs. The ABCs swept the double-header in eight innings, with an 11-4 win. Pitchers **Dicta Johnson** of the ABCs and **Otto Bolden** for the Giants also made appearances in the second game. A complete box score of the second game has never been found.

WASHINGTON PARK
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

A. B. C.'S
OF INDIANAPOLIS
VS.

LOUISVILLE GIANTS
AT LOUISVILLE, KY.

A. B. C.'S AT NASHVILLE,
TENN., APRIL 26, 27, 28

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Two Games

CHICAGO GIANTS
OF WESTERN CIRCUIT N.N.L.
VS.

A. B. C.'S
AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.

Since 1995, we have typed into my database more than 19,000 box scores. Depending on the quality of information provided by the papers, it can take between 30 and 90 minutes to calculate RBIs, Runs Scored, At Bats, Innings Pitched, Earned Runs and then find the first names of players for each entry.

Afterwards, integrity queries are run to check

that the total hits, total runs, total walks equal hit, run and walk totals, etc., given up by the opposing pitcher(s). Our team of **Wayne Stivers, Gary Ashwill, Kevin Johnson, Patrick Rock** and **Michael Lynch** are now in the ninth inning and we expect to publish records on the Seamheads website in coming seasons. A great big thank you to all the contributors over the past 25 years.

Note: advertisement courtesy of the *Chicago Defender*, 24 April 1920 (pg. 9) and the box score is printed in the 8 May 1920 (pg. 16) issue.

CHI. GIANTS					A. B. C.'S				
	AB	H	O	A		AB	H	O	A
W. Green, 3b	4	1	3	2	Shively, lf	4	1	3	0
Winston, lf	3	0	2	1	Clark, ss	3	1	1	0
Jennings, 2b	4	0	0	0	Charleston, cf	4	1	1	0
Jenkins, cf	2	1	4	0	Taylor, lb	4	1	10	0
Huckwith, c	4	0	4	0	Powell, c	4	0	7	2
Gollub, rf	4	2	0	0	Houston, 2b	3	2	4	0
White, 1b	4	1	0	0	Day, 3b	3	0	0	3
H. Jeff's, ss	1	2	3	3	J. Jeff's, rf	3	1	1	0
Ball, p	4	1	0	3	Wipe, p	4	2	0	3
Totals	33	7	24	0	Totals	32	9	27	12
Giants	1	0	0	0	A. B. C.'s	1	0	0	0
A. B. C.'s	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0

Errors—Jennings, H. Jeffries, Three base hit—Gollub, Two base hits—Houston, Wipe, Sacrifice hit—Day, Stolen bases—Green, Winston, H. Jeffries, Shively, Double play—Winston to H. Jeffries to Green, Bases on balls—Off Rile, 3; off Ball, 4. Struck out—By Rile, 5; by Ball, 3. Umpires—McKee and Hubb.

AMBROSE DAVIS

By Tony Kissel

akissel@twcny.rr.com

According to his death certificate, **Ambrose Davis** (pictured?) was born in New York City in January of 1863, to Frederick and Mary Davis. From what little we know about him; it seems odd that nothing has been written about this mysterious man often called the first Black owner of a professional baseball team. There has to be photographs of either his illustrious career in entertainment, or from his years of ownership of the **New York Gorhams**.

An Ambrose Davis is mentioned in a few New York City newspapers in August of 1883 for his involvement in a knife fight on Thompson Street in Little Africa. However, *The Daily Graphic* refers to Davis's profession as a horse-jockey, so it seems unlikely this is the same individual. For in January of this same year Ambrose was winning a gold-headed cane as the championship cake walker at a ball at the Germania Assembly Rooms on Seventh Avenue.

In 1886, Ambrose Davis was a co-founder of the New York Gorhams professional baseball team. The team was apparently named after **Alexander Gorham** who owned Gorham's Saloon at 204-06 Thompson Street. The wealthy Gorham was a Black businessman originally from Providence, Rhode Island. The young Ambrose was also successful as the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* of October 18, 1886 observed: "Callendar's Minstrels, which are to appear at the People's Theater to-night, have in the company probably the richest performer in the profession, Mr. Ambrose Davis, the diamonds he wears daily being worth several thousand dollars."

During the following five years Ambrose ran the Gorhams and occasionally played in the outfield for the team, owned a cigar store on Bleecker Street, operated an athletic club, opened up his own saloon right next door to the Gorham Saloon, and performed as an entertainer in vaudeville. His 1891 Gorhams are remembered for a 39-game winning streak, and **Sol White's** designation as the greatest Black professional team of the 19th Century.

But, in 1892 Davis's fortunes took a nosedive. His Gorhams team lost a few key players and struggled through a losing season. His thriving saloon and dance hall were raided during the summer, and 52 people were arrested, but he managed to escape. The economic downturn that followed almost ruined him. He decided

to turn the Gorhams into a weekend semipro club and resumed his entertainment career.

Throughout the latter 1890's and early 1900's we see Ambrose bouncing from one business endeavor to another. He acted in Uncle Tom's Cabin, and he sang in the **Four In Hand Quartette**, and was also the stage manager for the Georgia Minstrel Company. In 1902, a brief mention of a Mrs. A. Davis was given by the *Indianapolis Freeman*. He later left one tour that summer due to an illness.

In 1908, Ambrose was living on East 132nd Street in Harlem after disposing of his Thompson Street property in what is now considered Greenwich Village or the South Side. He died on July 27, 1909 at the age of 46 in Bellevue Hospital. His death certificate noted he was single. Sol White considered him to be one of the pioneers of Black Baseball. His role in the growth of Black professional baseball is sadly overlooked.

Photo courtesy of Mark Berresford.

Editor's Note: Additional information about this cakewalker can be found in James E. Brunson, III's trilogy *Black Baseball, 1858-1900, A Comprehensive Record of the Teams, Players, Managers, owners and Umpires, Volume 2*, pages, 641-642.

Sports Artist Spotlight: Darryl Vlasak

Sports Art by Mike Payne

From the hundreds of paintings **Darryl Vlasak** has completed, one stands above the rest to him: **Satchel Paige**. He thinks it's the best thing he's done, so far.

What Vlasak hopes with his works is a connection with the fan through his paintings and art prints, which feature detailed imagery, a connection that al-lows fans



to see names like Paige in color. Darryl diligently researches the actual colors of the uniforms and then paints the subjects in the appropriate colors. This allows everyone to see them in their actual uniform colors.

More information about Vlasak

artwork can be found at: <https://www.lotgsa.com/>

BLACK BALL TO LAUNCH IN JUNE

Our story **BLACK BALL** once again will pay homage to Negro League Baseball's 100th Anniversary and **BLACK BALL** 25th Anniversary year of 2020. Our story began on May 2, 1920, when the **Indianapolis ABCs** beat Joe Green's **Chicago Giants** (4–2) in the first game in the inaugural season of the Negro National League, played at Washington Park in Indianapolis.

The first documented (box score) baseball game between two African-American teams was played on November 15, 1859 in New York City. The **Henson Base Ball Club of Jamaica (Queens)** played the **Unknown of Weeksville**. The Henson Base Ball Club defeated the Unknown(s), 54 to 43.

BLACK BALL, authentic logo and brand will pay homage to Negro League Baseball communities, teams, owners, and players, from every city, state and those internationally that participated in the Negro Leagues. Our **BLACK BALL** caravan will barnstorm into every community and will feature people who've been Black Balled.



Our story **BLACK BALL** audio, visual and virtual experience will begin June 2020 @ www.blackballnlb.com *Play Ball With Us!*

Our story **BLACK BALL** clothing for women, children, men of all sizes, memorabilia, accessories, quality and service is second to none for retail or wholesale buyers.

Elonda Gatewood **BLACK BALL'S** exclusive fashion designer of the 25th Anniversary Edition of **BLACK BALL** Clothing, Memorabilia and Accessories is phenomenal. Gatewood is the modern-day Mother of Black Ball.

World renowned opera singer Jermaine Smith will open our front door for you to start your **BLACK BALL** Experience. Mark Howard, Marc Anthony Porch and Sudan Mahmoud, will tell our story. What Negro League Baseball meant to our communities from our Sunday's best dressed to the ball games nationwide and



what **BLACK BALL** means to our communities in real time today.

Our story Black Ball will feature Living Legends such as **Sam Allen** and **Eddie (Porky) Brooks** both living legends played for the **Kansas City Monarchs**. Our story **BLACK BALL** Caravan train will connect our global community. Our brick and mortar www.blackballnlb.com will launch June 2020. For more information contact **Marc Anthony Porch** @ (309) 222-3631

Dr. Fauci Sees Baseball Starting With Social Distancing

By **Tauren Dyson**, 22 April 2020 [courtesy of Cappy Gagnon]

Pronouncing, "I love baseball," Dr. Anthony Fauci expressed optimism baseball can get back to playing games this summer with fans who are separated by social distancing and wearing "face coverings," the medical expert told **Yes Network**.

"It could be in the stadium with a significant difference of space, between people, and even then, wearing a facial covering," said Fauci, who adds "it's reasonable" to play a quarantine season.

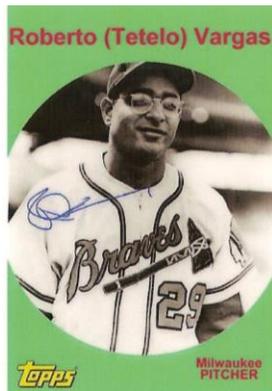
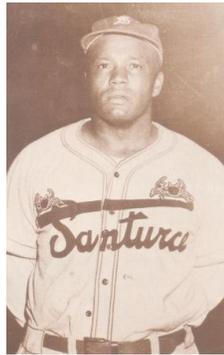
1. The catcher and home plate umpire already are wearing masks.
2. Middle infielders already practice social distancing from the second sack, on phantom tag plays.
3. Third base coaches already practice social distancing from the coach's box.
4. We can change the name of the "on deck circle" to the "social distance circle."
5. One of the great benefits to these changes will be the elimination of those conferences on the mound where all nine players, the manager, and the stat guru are all assembled on the mound.
6. In the early days of the game, the umpire was at least six feet back from the catcher (and wearing a coat and tails).
7. Some MLB teams already have few enough fans that they can be socially distant.
8. Sign stealing will not be hampered by the social distancing.
9. With all the beer drinking, some MLB fans might want to wear masks, to avoid embarrassment and police detection.
10. When I was a young player, my swing was often socially distance from the pitched ball.

Caribbean Baseball Hall of Fame Honors 3 Negro Leaguers

The Caribbean Baseball Hall of Fame was established in 1996. There are 101 inductees through 2020. It honors stars in the Caribbean, primarily from the Caribbean

Series. Beginning in 2009, inductees have rotated based on the host country of the Series.

Special thanks to **Jorge Colon Delgado** who nominated outfielders **Buster Clarkson** (right), **Bob Thurman** and pitcher **Roberto Vargas**. They join the ranks of other Negro Leaguers; Willie Mays, Willard Brown, Wilmer Fields, Jose Santiago, Minnie Minoso and Pedro Formental.



www.Beisbol101.com has the full induction details at: <https://www.beisbol101.com/2020/01/three-negro-leaguers-to-join-the-caribbean-series-hall-of-fame-february-6-2020/>

David Montgomery Named Buck O'Neil Award Winner

Thursday, March 5, 2020

(COOPERSTOWN, NY) – The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Board of Directors has selected **David Montgomery** as the 2020 recipient of the **John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award**, presented to an individual for extraordinary efforts to enhance baseball's positive impact on society.

Montgomery, who passed away on May 8, 2019, becomes the fifth winner of the Buck O'Neil Award, which was established in 2007 to honor an individual whose efforts broadened the game's appeal and whose character, integrity and dignity is comparable to the late **Buck O'Neil**.

Montgomery became a Philadelphia icon while spending his entire career in baseball, spanning parts of five decades, working his way up from the sales office to become executive V-P and COO before acquiring an ownership stake in the Phillies. He later served as president, chief executive officer and then assumed the role of chairman in January of 2015.

More details available at:

<https://baseballhall.org/node/20986>

Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA • JUNE 10-13, 2021



MAY 1, 2020 — Due to the global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, SABR's [Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference](#) has been rescheduled for June 10-13, 2021, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama.

Since 1998, the Malloy Conference has been the only symposium dedicated exclusively to the examination and promotion of Black Baseball history. The conference, which is open to baseball and history fans of all ages, promotes activities to enhance scholarly, educational, and literary objectives. Each year, monies are targeted to donate books to schools or libraries; raise funds for the [Negro Leagues Baseball Grave Marker Project](#); and award scholarships to high school seniors in a nationwide essay contest and an annual art contest.

Anyone who has already registered for the Malloy Conference is encouraged to contact [Deb Jayne](#) at the SABR office (djayne@sabr.org or 602-343-6450) to discuss options regarding their conference registration fees, including converting it into a donation toward SABR's [Sustainability Campaign fund](#) or rollover fees to next year's Malloy conference.

The [Negro Leagues Committee](#) is one of SABR's original committees, formed in 1971. It has continued to preserve and highlight the contributions of African American players in baseball history.

Let's Put Luis Tiant, Jr., into the National Baseball Hall of Fame

Read Tom Van Hyning's outstanding five-part series about Luis Tiant, Jr. (on the left), and son of Cuban pitching legend (throwing). Van Hyning grew up in Santurce, PR. His family moved to the Island when Tom was two. Van Hyning is the author of *Puerto Rico's Winter League* and *The Santurce Crabbers*.



PART FIVE

<https://www.beisbol101.com/2020/05/luis-tiant-cooperstown-hall-of-fame-credentials-plus-other-honors-and-awards-part-v/>

PART FOUR

<https://www.beisbol101.com/2020/05/luis-tiant-boston-ny-yankees-portland-pittsburgh-laguaira-california-and-santurce-part-iv/>

PART THREE

<https://www.beisbol101.com/2020/05/luis-tiant-minnesota-caracas-louisville-boston-and-laguaira-part-iii/>

PART TWO

<https://www.beisbol101.com/2020/05/luis-tiant-cleveland-indians-ponce-lions-and-caracas-lions-part-ii/>

PART ONE

<https://www.beisbol101.com/2020/04/luis-tiant-1959-mexico-city-to-1964-portland-oregon-part-i/>

Lingo from the Negro Leagues.

Over the years, I asked various players about the strategy, slang or lingo used by Black players. Some notes include pitch IDs; Slider – nicked curveball. Fastball – inshoot. Screwball – fade away. Hesitation delivery – hiccup delivery.

They also noted that the cut ball, spit ball, emery ball and shine ball were all legal in the Negro Leagues.

Negro League players often turned bunting into an art form. Sometimes they used a play called a “bunt-and-run”, not conducive in today's game, but very effective in Blackball's heyday. Normally done with a player on first base and less than two outs. Basically, a steal attempt with the batter bunting down the third base line. The player stealing second would go on third base, if the third baseman fielded the ball.



Female names were often used to identify strategy. The name “Mary” may have been used as a “take” sign, while “Jennie” may have meant the “steal” sign was on.

Before games they often performed a “Shadow Ball” routine of going through well-timed and believable choreographic motions that gave the illusion of an actual ball moving between players as they slapped their gloves on impact of the imaginary baseball.

In the Ken Burns' documentary *Baseball*, Buck O'Neil recalls that he once watched Satchel Paige pitching so hard and fast that the nearly invisible ball made him think that they were actually playing Shadow Ball.

It must have been a fun time at a Negro League game. Batter Up!

Dugout Reading:

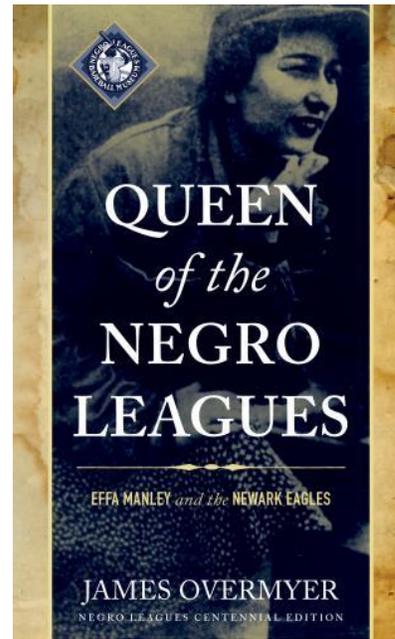
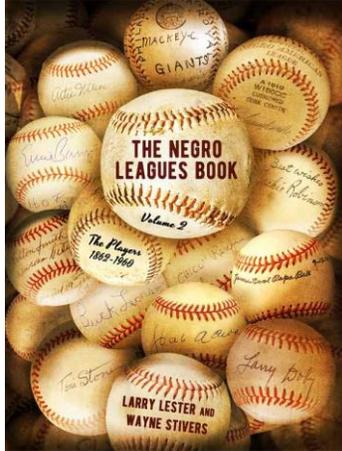
The Negro Leagues Book, Volume 2: The Players, 1862-1960 by **Larry Lester** and **Wayne Stivers**

The ultimate, most comprehensive collection of information about players from the Negro Baseball Leagues ever published. More than 7,000 players are listed with their respective years and teams. A special section about **female team owners** is included. The first chapter is entitled, "In the Beginning" about the early days of Black Baseball dating back to the Civil War.

Also, debut dates of every Major Leaguer from the Negro Leagues; an **East-West All-Star team** section; all-time **World Series** roster section; players who played in other sports; listing of relatives within the league; listing of **historical markers**, roadways, streets and ball parks named in their honor; books authored by Negro League players; the only source for **uniform numbers**; players and executives who served in the Spanish-American, Civil War, and World Wars I and II; **collegiate** players and **cemetery** burial sites.

Now available in **PAPERBACK** in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Negro National League in 1920. The printed version is 473 pages and available for only \$24.95 until Satchel Paige's birthday on July 7th. Order your printed copy and the eBook at Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/ycbv67n3>

Send me your mailing address and I will mail you a signed book plate by Stivers and Lester.



In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Negro Leagues, this book honors the life of **Effa Manley**, the trailblazing female co-owner of baseball's **Newark Eagles**.

The first woman inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, there was no one like **Effa**

Manley in the sports world of the 1930s and 1940s. She was a sophisticated woman who owned a baseball team. She never shrank from going head to head with men, who dominated the ranks of sports executives. That her life story remained unchronicled for so long can only be attributed to one thing: her team, the **Newark Eagles**, belonged to the Negro Leagues.

In *Queen of the Negro Leagues: Effa Manley and the Newark Eagles, Negro Leagues Centennial Edition*, James Overmyer brings to light new details regarding **Effa Manley's** fascinating story, including previously-unknown information about her childhood and family. Overmyer wonderfully portrays **Effa Manley's** trailblazing life, her championship baseball team, and a thriving black community in Newark that took the Eagles into their hearts. In addition, this book contains updates regarding the Negro Leagues, its talented rank of players, and Manley's induction into the Hall of Fame.

This important work shines the spotlight on a previously unsung segment of baseball history. Drawing extensively from Eagle team records and Manley's scrapbook, *Queen of the Negro Leagues* is the definitive biography of a groundbreaking female sports executive.

Overmyer's narrative reveals the essence of the blackest White woman in a league the color of midnight. Discover this Queen's hidden truths in this scintillating read about her journey as a team owner.

Available from Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

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Also check out **Shakeia Taylor's** article on SBNation.com entitled *Effa Manley's Hidden Past*: The only woman in the National Baseball Hall of Fame had a fascinating — and confusing — past. Check it out at: <https://www.sbnation.com/2020/4/30/21238190/effa-manley-hall-of-fame-negro-league-newark-eagles>

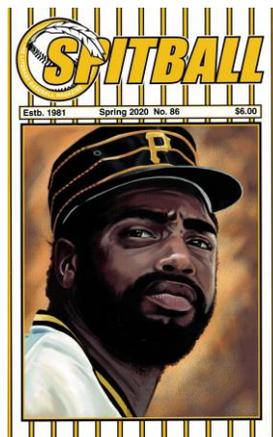
A Visit to the Mound

By **Rich Puerzer**

Read this account of Satchel Paige's last Major League game at the age of 59 for the 1965 **Kansas City Athletics** and how he prepared for this historic moment with his son Robert.

Available in the Spring 2020 edition of *Spitball: The Literary Baseball Magazine*.

Puerzer was the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference trivia champion in 2013 and 2017.



Sunrises!

JUNE

8TH – LIONEL EVELYN - 91
19TH – HANK MASON - 89
21ST – ART SIMMONS - 83
22ND – BOB SCOTT - 90
23RD – ULYSSES HOLLIMON – 89
30TH – RENDON MARBURY - 83

JULY

1ST – FRANK ENSLEY - 93
19TH – JOHNNY FAIRLEY – 79
26TH – PEDRO SIERRA – 82
30TH – WILLIAM BELL – 90



AUGUST

1ST – A.J. JACKSON - 87
8TH – GRADY MONTGOMERY – 89
19TH – WALT “COACH O” OWENS – 87
26TH – IKE WELCH – 100
29TH – RICH BOOKER – 91
31ST – JAKE SANDERS - 86

CONGRATULATIONS to Nonagenarians, **FRANK ENSLEY, LIONEL EVELYN, RICH BOOKER, BOB SCOTT, WILLIAM BELL & CENTURION IKE WELCH.**

Sunsets

OLLIE O. BRANTLEY, 88,

died April 5, 2020 in Dallas, TX. Brantley pitched for the **Memphis Red Sox** from 1950 to 1953. In 1953, Brantley was signed by the **Chicago White Sox** organization playing for the Wisconsin Rapids (D), Waterloo (B), Dubuque (D), Bisbee-Douglas (C), Evansville (B), Eugene (B), Colorado Springs (A), Charleston (A), and San Diego (AAA). He also spent one season in the **Cincinnati Reds** organization, and from 1962 to 1969 played with several A-level teams in the **Minnesota Twins** organization, retiring at the age of 37 with the Orlando Twins. Brantley's minor league won-lost record was 155-117 (.570).



JAYCEE CASSELBERRY, 88, died November 3, 2018 in Atlanta, GA. Casselberry was a pitcher and catcher for the **Indianapolis Clowns** from 1957 to 1959. He is buried in Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Greensboro, GA.

ROY LLOYD CHAPMAN JR., 89, died August 15, 2018 and is buried in Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY. Chapman pitched for the **New York Black Yankees** from 1949 to 1950. Chapman later served in the U.S. Army and played on its Army basketball and baseball teams. Upon his discharge in 1953, he became a player/coach for the Viceroy's Basketball team. In 2010, he was inducted into the **Brooklyn Athletic Hall of Fame.**

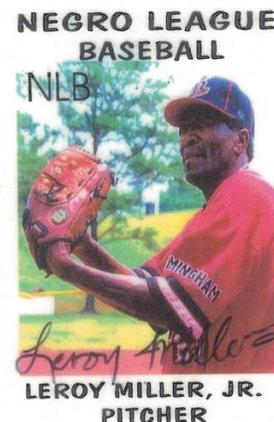


PHILIP NATHANIEL EDWARDS, 93, died May 28, 2018 in Birmingham, AL. Edwards pitched for the **Birmingham Black Barons** in 1948. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.

SAMUEL FULTON, 80, died April 7, 2020 in Atlanta, GA. Fulton pitched for the **Birmingham Black Barons** in 1956. He is buried in Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Greensboro, GA.

REV. EARL HARRY, SR., 83, died August ?, 2019 in Birmingham, AL. Pastor Harry was a middle infielder for the **Indianapolis Clowns, the New York Black Yankees** in 1955. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.

LEROY “PIRATE” MILLER, JR., 78, died in April ?, 2020 in Birmingham, AL. Miller pitched for the **Birmingham Black Barons** and the **Philadelphia Stars.**



SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

Larry Lester, chairman,
LarryLester42@gmail.com or NTresearch@comcast.net
The Courier is a quarterly newsletter published by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), in March, June, September, and December. Inquiries, submissions and research requests can be sent to Larry Lester. Back issues can be found [HERE](#).

To receive your personal copies of this newsletter please join SABR by [clicking here](#).

For more information about SABR's Negro Leagues Committee [click here](#).

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