

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

March, 2019

## In the News

### Speeding Up the Game - 20 Second Pitch Clock

Recently Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association discussed the possibility of using a 20 second pitch clock to speed up the game. Basically, pitchers would have to throw the ball to the batter within 20 seconds to avoid a "ball" being added to the pitch count.

The pitch clock has been used in college baseball (starting in 2010), and later in the Arizona Fall League in 2014. And more recently at the Double-A and Triple-A levels in Minor League Baseball (2015). The methodical pace of play has been a subject of discussion for years.

The Negro baseball leagues have always been creative and innovative in the making of the National Pastime, America's favorite sport. As we know the flow of play in black baseball has often been presented as a more up tempo contest with players stealing home plate, double-steals, suicide squeezes, stretching singles into doubles, versus the station-to-station action at the Major League level.

Let's note some examples of black baseball creativity below.

1928, The **Chicago American Giants**, of the Negro National League, put numbers on their jerseys, a year before the New York Yankees do likewise.

1930, The **Kansas City Monarchs** play their first game under the lights in Enid, Oklahoma. This was five years, 1935, before the first major league night game is played at Crosley Stadium in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1937, **Willie Wells** returns after five days from a beaming from spitball pitcher **Bill Byrd**. Wells appears at the plate with a modified construction hat. It is the first known instance of a player donning a "hard" hat -- four years before major leaguers don optional protective headgear.

Digging deep into the archives was found another way the Negro Leagues show creativity; this time in speeding up the game. Below is another idea on how to speed up the pace of the game presented more than 50 years ago. I welcome your comments.

*The Chicago Defender*, national edition, 15 April 1961

#### 'Wild Cards' Speeds Tigers - Monarchs Tilts

Raleigh Tigers and Kansas City Monarchs baseball teams will try something new when the two teams hook up for a month long barnstorming tour starting April 30. **Ted Rasberry**, owner of the Monarchs and **Arthur Dove**, Tigers' owner have agreed to use "wild cards" aimed at speeding up the games.

Pinch runners must be used for both pitcher and catcher should either or both runner during their team's turn at bat. By using pinch runner for pitcher this will allow pitcher time to make all warm-up pitches on the sideline while his team is still at bat.

No warm-up pitches will be allowed on the mound when pitchers takes over at the start of each inning. In allowing pinch runner for the catcher, no time will be lost while catcher is putting on equipment after having been a base runner.

Lead-off batter in each inning will not be allowed to go to his team's dugout but must go from defense position straight to batters' box after opponents have been retired in an inning.

**Dr. J.B. Martin**, president of the Negro American League, has granted the teams permission to try these innovations. A careful check will be made to determine their value in speeding up the game.

The Tigers and Kansas City Monarchs tour is slated to begin at Sumter, S.C., on Sunday, April 30.



## The Story of Clarence Duval: The Mascot of the 1888-1889 Spalding Baseball World Tour.

By [Bradley Horowitz](#) at [bradleyhorowitz@optonline.net](mailto:bradleyhorowitz@optonline.net)

**C**larence Duval is best known to baseball fans as being one of baseball's earliest mascots who achieved considerable fame particularly when he joined Albert Spalding's Baseball World Tour in 1888. He became one of the few Americans at that time to circumnavigate the entire world. Duval was also the unwitting target of racial abuse by his fellow ballplayers throughout his life. Mark Lamster notes that when Duval joined the tour, he was around fifteen years old and was "less than five feet tall." Hall of Famer Cap Anson had recognized Duval during a stop at Omaha, Nebraska much to the ballplayer's displeasure. The two had a history together; Duval was a mascot for Anson's team the Chicago White Stockings. Duval can be found in a picture of the 1888 Chicago White Stockings club wearing a helmet with a band baton. Duval quit his role as the team's mascot during a series against the New York Giants in 1888 and worked for Vernona Jarbeau, an actress in the stage production *Starlight*. It does seem that Duval was in an earlier production of the play in 1887 (Lamster, 66-70).

By the time he had met up with Anson, Duval had been fired by Jarbeau and joined up with the tour (Lamster, 69). His main duties were to act as a performer for audience members during the tour. In the tour's stop at Honolulu, Duval led a band through the city while the Civil War anthem "Marching Through Georgia" played (105). At the estate of Hawaiian King Kalakaua, Duval performance was called a "plantation dance" in front of the king who then gave him a dollar silver coin (1122). The "plantation dance" was a type of minstrelsy dance where the performer acted in a stereotypical manner pertaining to American slaves (122). Duval would continue to perform in that manner for guests throughout the tour (161).

Throughout the tour, Duval was physically and emotionally abused by the ballplayers. During the tour's sail across the Indian Ocean, Anson once suggested that Duval be used as bait to catch a shark to which Duval was found "cowering under the mizzenmast" (154-156). When Duval was treated royalty by some of the German participants on the S.S. *Salier* because his drum costume gave him the impression of being a king, Albert Spalding fixed that quickly by handing Duval over to the captain for manual labor on the ship. Duval could never find refuge from the constant abuse

### Reference List:

Lamster, Mark. *Spalding's World Tour: The Epic Adventure that Took Baseball Around the Globe - And Made It America's Game*. New York, PublicAffairs, 2007.

Sutter, L.M. *Arlie Latham: A Baseball Biography of the Freshest Man on Earth*. Jefferson, McFarland, 2012.

Zeiler, Thomas W. "Basepaths to Empire: Race and the Spalding World Baseball Tour." *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2007, pp. 179-207. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/25144475](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25144475).

from the tour. Even when Duval was invited to join in the group's antics, there was always a sense of tension between him and the more racist members of the group.

For example, Duval apparently taught the baseball players how to play craps (154-156). Harry Palmer and Cap Anson found this to be typical behavior of African-Americans considering the racist belief that gambling was second nature to black Americans (Zeiler, 197). In another incident, the baseball players had begun practicing cricket during their trip to Australia on the *USS Alameda*. Duval joined in the game. When Tommy Burns praised Duval's pitching as being "very speedy," Cap Anson had to be restrained from attacking Burns (Lamster, 132).

*New York Herald* reporter Harry Palmer, who covered the tour, wrote in his private diary that Duval could be "the missing link" between man and ape due to an incident that had occurred earlier that day. During a stop in Egypt, Jimmy Ryan had Duval don his uniform with a catcher's mask on his face and a rope tied around the waist. Duval appeared out of the train carrying the passengers and acted like a raging monkey (166). In reviewing newspaper accounts of Duval, he does not fare well.

Historian Thomas Zeiler notes that Duval was referred to by both newspapermen and the players as the "impish-faced negro" or the "little beggar" (Zeiler, 187).

Duval ended the tour with the rest of his compatriots. Upon arrival at New York City on April 6, 1889 Duval was quoted by the *Evening Sun* as being pleased to be home (Lamster, 240). Information on Duval's activities after the tour are sparse. Duval led the Chicago White Stockings onto the West Side Park for the last time on April 20, 1889 (250). Duval "was treated as an honored guest" at a September 1898 game by Spalding's Chicago club in Philadelphia.

L.M. Sutter, through her research on St. Louis Browns player Arlie Latham, continues Duval's story. Sutter writes that "Duval slipped into obscurity" after the tour (Sutter, 132). Duval ended up on the Chicago Pirates of the Player's League in 1890 (120). He spent his free time at the team's headquarters and became friends with star player Ned Williamson. In August of 1890, Duval was arrested for shooting craps (121). The editor of a 1913 *Sporting Life* article reported that no one could find Duval (121).

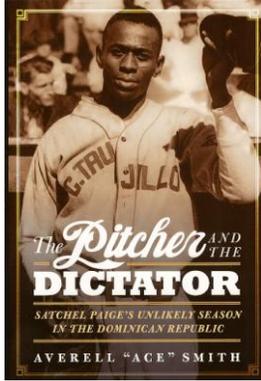


## 2018 Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference Awards

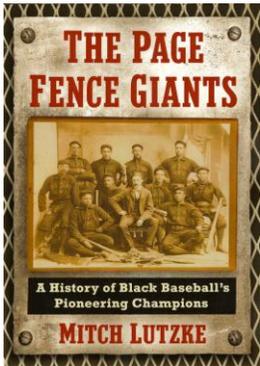
### The ROBERT PETERSON RECOGNITION

**AWARD:** for bodies of work that increase public awareness on the Negro Leagues. Works may include books or full-length, footnoted articles. The Award is named after the author of the Negro League landmark publication aptly titled, *Only the Ball Was White*.

**Averell Smith** - *The Pitcher and the Dictator: Satchel Paige's Unlikely Season in the Dominican Republic*



**Gaylon White** - *Singles and Smiles: How Artie Wilson Broke Baseball's Color Barrier*



**Mitch Lutzke** - *The Page Fence Giants: A History of Black Baseball's Pioneering Champions*

**THE JOHN COATES NEXT GENERATION AWARD:** for recognition of outstanding achievement and dedication by newcomers to the research field. This Award is named after a passionate and energetic historian who died at a young age.

**Emily Ruth Rutter** - For her book: *Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representations of Baseball Behind the Color Line*.

**Michelle Freeman** - For her work with the – **LEON DAY FOUNDATION** and **SABR's Baltimore BABE RUTH CHAPTER**



**Derrick Jones** - For his paper – *The Lessons Learned: Ask The Children*

**The NORMAL "TWEED" WEBB LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** to recognize long-term research contributions to the field of Negro League history. This Award is named after the renowned St. Louis historian and former batboy for **Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants**. **Pedro Sierra** - For his steadfast efforts to increase awareness of Black Baseball via his *Historic First Posters* and his book entitled: *Book of Wisdom*

**Dr. Layton Revel** - For his steadfast efforts to increase awareness of Black Baseball via the **CENTER FOR NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL RESEARCH** and the **NEGRO SOUTHERN LEAGUE MUSEUM** in Birmingham, AL

**Philip Ross** - For his steadfast efforts to increase awareness of Black Baseball via his book with Pedro Sierra entitled: *Negro Leagues Baseball: A to Z*

**THE FAY VINCENT MOST VALUABLE PARTNER (MVP) AWARD:** for the conference contributor with the greatest impact towards a successful conference and someone who shares Commissioner Vincent's vision to recognize the Negro Leagues and its impact on the socialization of American values.

We present this MVP award to former SABR Chief Executive Officer **Marc Appleman** for his work in promoting the mission of the **MALLOY CONFERENCE** over the past few years with his encouragement to promote the study and research of African American baseball history.



## RARE NEGRO LEAGUE MEMORABILIA OFFERING by Hake Auction

The Negro National League (NNL) and the breakaway Eastern Colored League (ECL), both rose to prominence in the early 1920s.

As those two leagues grew and prospered, there was an increasing call from both the fans and the press to establish a post-season championship series to determine the World Champions of Colored Baseball. Finally, as the 1924 season was winding down, the long-feuding owners of the NNL and ECL decided to set their differences aside and organize a post-season “Best of 9” series to crown the champion for 1924. This series became known as the “Colored World Series,” pitting the two regular-season champs of the two different leagues against each other. Those teams were the Kansas City Monarchs and the Hilldale Club from Darby, PA.



The hotly contested World Series not only went 9 games – one of them a tie – it even ended up going to a tenth and deciding game, which was ultimately won by the Monarchs. It was a magical moment in history when Hilldale ace Nip Winters was named MVP of the series in a losing cause. Winters started and completed four games, winning three, with his only loss coming in Game Seven, which went 12 innings. He struck out 21 batters in 38 2/3 innings, while compiling a diminutive ERA of 1.16.

The Monarchs would go on to win the Negro National League championships for the next two seasons and became widely regarded as the best team of the 1920s in Negro League Baseball. Hilldale also had a very successful run, winning another ECL championship the following year and even defeating the Monarchs for the 1925 World Series. But it is the 1924 series that will forever be regarded as the landmark event in the evolution of baseball.

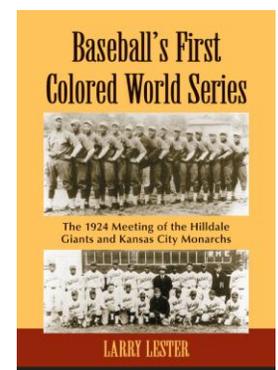
Of the memorabilia that exists from that series, perhaps none is more cherished than the panoramic photo taken on October 11, 1924 prior to Game 5, showing both teams alongside their managers and owners. Taken by the noted photographer J.E. Miller of Kansas City, it includes 41 individuals including eight future Baseball Hall of Fame selectees, more than are seen in any other surviving original Negro League Baseball photograph. It is widely believed that the original photographic prints were distributed directly from the photo studio to participants of the 1924 Negro League World Series. Very few examples are known to have survived, and none has appeared in the auction marketplace since 2011.

In their March 13-14, 2019 auction, Hake’s will end the long drought by offering collectors one of the extremely rare original 1924 J.E. Miller photos. The

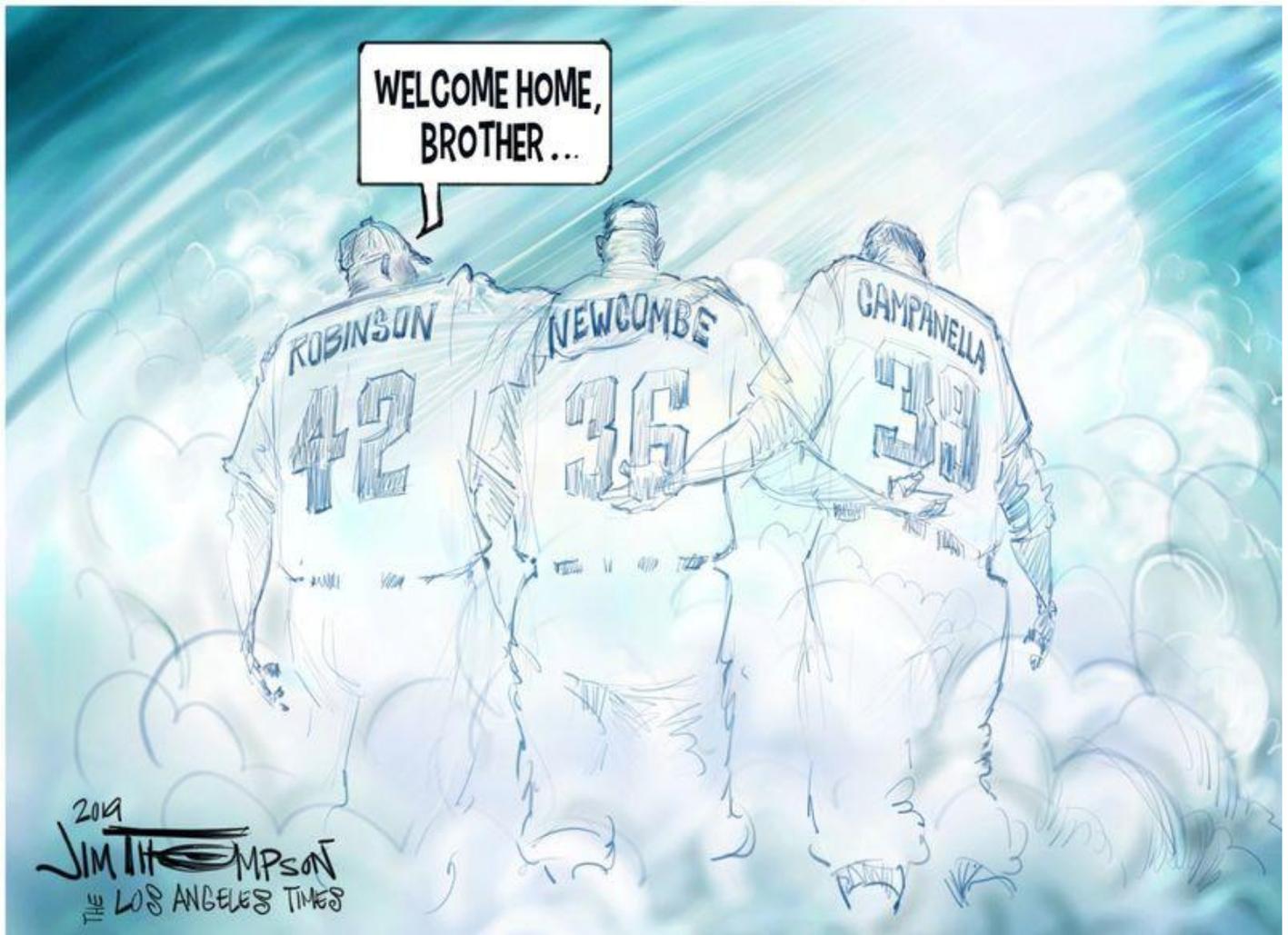
7x35” photograph has been professionally cleaned and mounted to archival backing to ensure its future integrity. Additionally, it has been attractively framed using conservation materials.

“The image quality is phenomenal. Rarely do you see a crystal-clear panoramic that is nearly 100 years old, but that’s the case with this photo, which we regard as the ultimate piece of memorabilia to own if you could only have one item to represent the history of Negro League Baseball,” said Hake’s president, Alex Winter.

The auction estimate is \$20,000-\$35,000. For additional information, call toll-free 1-866-404-9800. View the full auction catalog online at [www.hakes.com](http://www.hakes.com).



## Sunsets . . . .



**DONALD "NEWK" NEWCOMBE, 92**, died February 19, 2019, in Northridge, Los Angeles, CA, after a prolonged illness. After attending Thomas Jefferson High School in Madison, New Jersey, he played for two years with **Newark Eagles** for owners Abe and **Effa Manley**. Newk was an intimidating right-handed pitcher who was the first player in major league history to have won Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player and Cy Young awards.

Armed with a blazing fastball and excellent control, the 6-foot-4, 240-pounder played mostly for the Brooklyn Dodgers in his 10-year major league career. He posted a 149-90 won-lost record with a 3.56 ERA and 1,129 strikeouts. And in an era when pitchers were expected to finish what they started, Newcombe had 136 complete games in 294 starts. In addition to his pitching accomplishments, Newcombe was an outstanding hitter who produced 15 career home runs and a .271 lifetime batting average. He also compiled an impressive list of firsts:

Newcombe was the first outstanding African-American pitcher in the major leagues and the first, in 1949, to start a World Series game; the first Black pitcher to win 20 games in a single season, 1951; the first player, in 1956 to win both the National League MVP and Cy Young awards. And the end of his career, he was perhaps the first former major leaguer to sign a contract to play professional Japanese baseball.



**PORTER LAVARE (GUT) REED, 95**, died January 2, 2019, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A native of Windom, Texas, his family moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma where he attended school. Reed served in the military from 1942 until 1946. Known for his strong throwing arm and blazing speed, Reed played outfield for the 1947 **Detroit Wolves** and the 1949 **Houston Eagles**.

## Sunrises!

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

### MARCH

- 1<sup>ST</sup> - VERNELL JACKSON - 89  
4<sup>TH</sup> - CHARLES MIDDLEBROOK - 83  
7<sup>TH</sup> - JAMES WOODS - 85  
13<sup>TH</sup> - LEROY HANCOCK - 88  
15<sup>TH</sup> - AL JEFFCOAT - 86  
18<sup>TH</sup> - CHARLEY PRIDE - 83; EZELL KING - 89  
20<sup>TH</sup> - GEORGE ALTMAN - 86  
21<sup>ST</sup> - **BENNY RODRIQUEZ - 92**

### APRIL

- 15<sup>TH</sup> - J.C. HARTMAN - 85  
23<sup>RD</sup> - **CHUCK HARMON - 95**  
25<sup>TH</sup> - **JERRY BENNETT - 97**;  
SAM ALLEN - 83  
27<sup>TH</sup> - TONY LLOYD - 83



### MAY

- 1<sup>ST</sup> - PIANO RED WALKER - 87  
6<sup>TH</sup> - WILLIE MAYS - 88  
13<sup>TH</sup> - **J.W. WINGATE - 90**  
17<sup>TH</sup> - GENE SCRUGGS - 81; **IRVIN CASTILLE - 93**  
22<sup>ND</sup> - GEORGE SPRIGGS - 82; MAURICE PEATROS - 80  
25<sup>TH</sup> - LARRY LEGRANDE - 80  
29<sup>TH</sup> - HAROLD HAIR - 86

**NOTE:** Congratulations to our Nonagenarians: **BENNY RODRIQUEZ, J.W. WINGATE, JERRY BENNETT, CHUCK HARMON, & IRVIN CASTILLE.**

## SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

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*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](#).

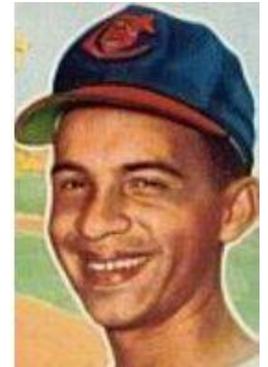
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## Sunsets . . . .

### JOSE GUILLERMO "PANTALONES"

**SANTIAGO, 90**, died October 9, 2018, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

Santiago pitched two seasons (1947-48) with the **New York Cubans** and spent several years in minor league baseball before debuting with the **Cleveland Indians** in 1954.. He started and finished his brief major league career with the 1956

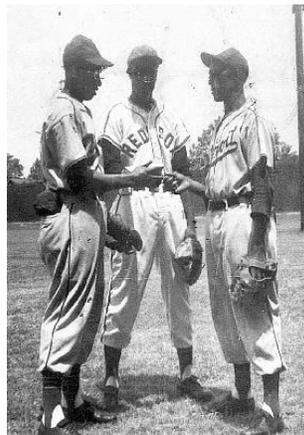


**Kansas City Athletics**. During his three-season career, he posted a 3-2 W/L record with 29 strikeouts and a 4.66 ERA in 27 appearances. In 1993, Santiago was inducted into the **Puerto Rican Hall of Fame** and later in 2003 into the **Caribbean Baseball Hall of Fame**.

### ROBERTO GUTIERREZ (MUSU) HERRERA,

**79**, died December 27, 2018, in Homestead, Florida. He was a catcher for the Indianapolis Clowns and Memphis Red Sox from 1955 to 1956. According to teammate **Pedro Sierra**, "Musu" "was an excellent receiver with a super cannon arm like **Johnny Bench**."

After his two-years in the Negro Leagues, at age 17, he joined the Gainesville G-Men in the Florida State League. For next 20 years Herrera performed in the minor leagues in the American Association, Southern League, Northern League and the AAA Mexican League, before retiring in 1976.



Herrera was also the father of former middle infielder **Ricky Gutierrez**, who played 12 seasons with the Padres, Astros, Cubs, Indians, Mets and the Red Sox.

**Pictured left to right; Pedro Sierra, Roberto Herrera and Juan Soler.**