

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

The Malloy is Back!

December, 2019

## In the News

### "We Are the Ship" Centennial Celebration of the Negro Baseball Leagues.

**100** years ago, the Negro National League (NNL), chartered as the *National Association of Colored Professional Baseball Clubs*, was established as a viable option for professional Black athletes barred from the all-White Major Leagues to showcase their talents. This year we celebrate their pleasure, passion and purpose-driven path to athletic glory and honor.

NNL's founder Rube Foster's mantra of "*We are the Ship . . . All Else the Sea*" spoke to their exclusion from Major League Baseball. Their struggles became our successes as Black Baseball exploded in popularity and became an integral part of baseball Americana. Today is your opportunity to honor the triumphs and accomplishments of men and women who paved the way to integrate the national game.

In celebration of 100 years, please join us at the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference, *the biggest and best Black Baseball conference in America*, in Birmingham, Alabama, from June 11 to 13, at the [Sheraton/Marriott Hotel](#). Click [here](#) for Maps and Transportation.

Hotel Registration can be found at: [HERE](#)

Conference Registration link is currently under construction.

Since 1998, in partnership with the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), the Malloy Conference has been the only symposium dedicated exclusively to the examination and promotion of Blackball history. The conference is open to baseball and history fans of all ages. Each year, monies are targeted to [donate books](#) to schools or libraries; raise funds for the Jeremy Krock's [Grave Marker Project](#); and award college grants to high school seniors in a national [essay contest](#), along with a nationwide [art contest](#). An added bonus is the presence of Negro League veterans at the conference.

Malloy Conference historical highlights can be found at: <https://www.larrylester42.com/malloy-conference.html>

If you have any questions, please contact a member of our leadership team:

- Michelle Freeman – [michelle.r.freeman@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.r.freeman@gmail.com)
- Doron "Duke" Goldman – [dorong714@gmail.com](mailto:dorong714@gmail.com)
- John Graf – [jgrafy@att.net](mailto:jgrafy@att.net)
- Leslie Heaphy – [lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:lheaphy@kent.edu)
- Ted Knorr – [papabell@aol.com](mailto:papabell@aol.com)
- Jeremy Krock [Grave Marker Coordinator] – [jlkrock@comcast.net](mailto:jlkrock@comcast.net)
- Larry Lester [Conference Chair] – [Ntresearch@comcast.net](mailto:Ntresearch@comcast.net)
- Benjamin Rose – [brose@sabr.org](mailto:brose@sabr.org)
- Lamar Smith [Birmingham Coordinator] – [glamarsmith@bellsouth.net](mailto:glamarsmith@bellsouth.net)



As a non-profit organization, we welcome financial and in-kind donations in any amount or value.

SABR - Cronkite School of ASU - 555 N. Central Ave, Suite 416 - Phoenix, AZ 85004



Respectfully Yours-

## Help Fund New Documentary About Post-Jackie Robinson African American Ballplayers in Canada

Canada has always had an outstanding history in sports, however, I believe an important part of that history is missing. My company, in partnership with **Thomega Entertainment**, is producing a nine-part documentary series: *They Came to Play The Game They Loved: The Friendly Rewarding Confounds for African Americans to Play Semi-Pro Baseball in Canada.*

In the 1950s, thwarted by baseball's color barrier, and facing dwindling opportunities due to the decline of the Negro Leagues, African American players found a home across the border. In Canada, players enjoyed summer fun, were paid for their talents and, most importantly, African American players experienced respect.

The historic value of the story is very positive, and we have worked hard on putting together a line-up of knowledgeable historians providing us with the information that will not only educate but entertain. It will be a documentary featured globally.

This is a personal story for me. My father **Collins Jones** was one of the African Americans who moved from Macon, Georgia, and, like many others, came to a friendlier, more receptive place to play the game they loved: Canada.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase." This project is another first step for me, having faith I will see the whole staircase. Please support this project by donating to my [GoFundMe page](https://www.gofundme.com/f/they-came-to-play-the-game-they-loved).

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/they-came-to-play-the-game-they-loved>

Thank you for your interest and consideration.  
William C. (Bill) Jones at 306-717-5719



## Dugout Reading:

*Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Greatest Forgotten Player* by **Jeremy Beer**

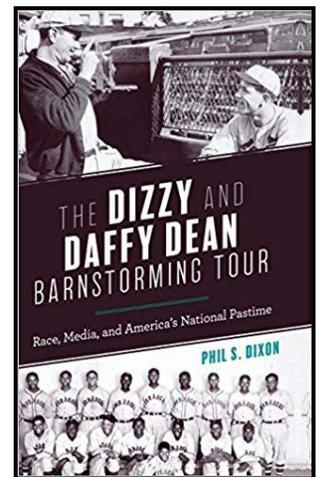
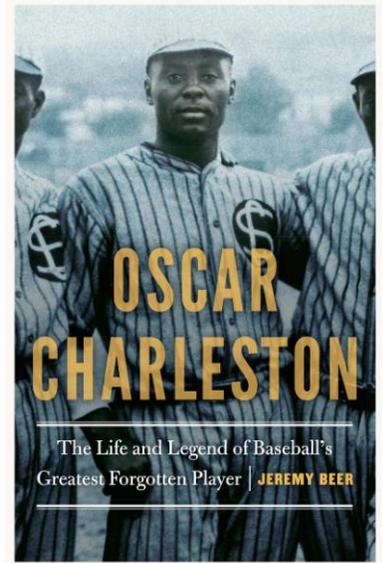
If you believe what many veterans of the Negro Leagues said -- that Oscar Charleston was the greatest all-time all-around layer -- then you will find Jeremy Beer's biography to be the unapologetic gospel truth. Beer's examination of the grand Oscar's youthful days, his military career, his adult life, and his baseball legacy is the fruit of serious grassroots research. He proves that Charleston was the most divine legend there ever was!

Beer has filled a serious void in baseball history in writing about this Hall of Famer. To fill out the HOF lineup, biographies are still needed for: **Ray Brown, Willard Brown, Leon Day, Willie Foster, Frank Grant, Pete Hill, Hilton Smith, Ben Taylor, Jud Wilson, Cristobal Torriente, and Smokey Joe Williams.**

*The Dizzy and Daffy Dean Barnstorming Tour: Race, Media and America's National Pastime* by **Phil S. Dixon**

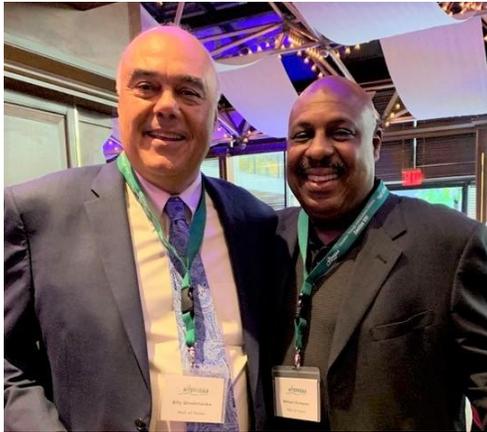
According to publisher Rowman & Littlefield, Dixon's book examines for the first time the full barnstorming series in its original and uncensored splendor. Phil S. Dixon profiles not only the men who were part of the Deans All-Star teams, but also the men who played against them., including some of baseball's most monumental African-American players. Dixon highlights how the contributions during the tour of Negro League stars such as **Satchel Paige, Chet Brewer, Charlie Beverly** and **Andy Cooper** were glossed over by sports writers of the day and grants them their rightful due in this significant slice of sports history.

Larry Foley, a film maker of *The First Boys of Spring*, adds, "Phil Dixon has written a compelling story about baseball's barnstorming past. He transports us back to a long forgotten time and place, with iconic and little known characters, sorting through a pre-Jackie Robinson era of American segregation."



## Ex Port, G.N. athletes inducted to Nassau County Hall Of Fame

By [The Island Now](#), November 8, 2019



Local Hall of Fame inductees **Bill Omeltchenko** and **Darin Dumpson** (representing his late father **William Dumpson**)

Two men with ties to Port Washington were inducted into the Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on Sept. 25.

The Nassau County High School Athletics Hall of Fame is organized as a means of recognizing, preserving, and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports in the county. The inductees are honored for their contributions and accomplishments which exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character.

Previous inductees encompass a “Who’s Who” of famous athletes with Nassau County ties, such as **Jim Brown**, **Hank Bjorklund**, **Jay Fiedler**, **Matt Snell**, **Julius Erving**, **Wally Szczerbiak**, **Art Heyman**, **Sue Wicks**, **Danielle Gallagher**, and **Al Oerter**.

This year, the late William “Bill” Dumpson, who starred for Port Washington High School basketball in the championship years of the late 1940s, and Bill Omeltchenko, who grew up in Great Neck but has lived in Port for 25 years, were among 34 individuals so honored.

### William “Bill” Dumpson

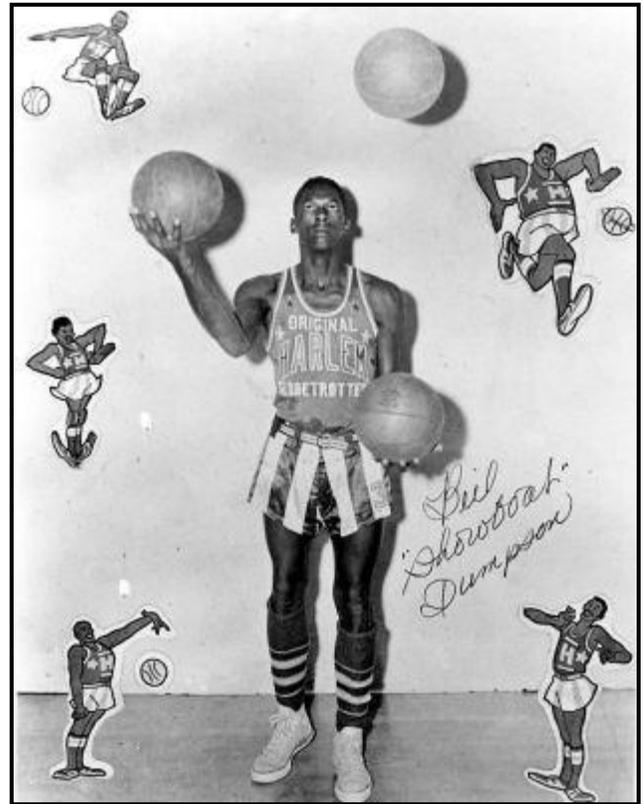
Bill, also known as “Myrt” at the time, played football, basketball and baseball and led Port Washington, and left an indelible mark the community.

More than 70 years after his accomplishments as a three-sport star, he is considered the greatest all-around athlete to come out of Port Washington (now Schreiber) High School. Although Dumpson starred in both football and baseball, it was in basketball that he made a name for himself. Dumpson led the Vikings to consecutive county championships in 1946 and 1947 (the team won the Long Island championship that year, too).

During those two years, the Port team ran through a 35-game winning streak, a Nassau County record at the time. He was the first black player to be named to the Newsday All-Scholastic (so named at the time) basketball team, achieving that honor in both his junior and senior years.

Upon graduation, he went to South Carolina State University, and in the spring of his freshman year, he pitched

in a game against the Homestead Grays of the Negro League, struck out 17 of their players, and left town as a member of that team that night, as his son Darin (accepting the award on his late father’s behalf) relates. He played alongside great legends of that league like **Josh Gibson**, **Satchel Paige**, **Buck Leonard**, and **Hank Aaron** over the following three years with several Negro League teams, including the **Indianapolis Clowns**, the **Philadelphia Stars**, and the **New York Black Yankees**.



An arm injury led him to the Harlem Globetrotters, where he made a name for himself as “Showboat” Dumpson from 1953-1954. When his Globetrotter career ended, he formed a local basketball team – the Court Jesters – that toured Long Island playing high school faculties, raising funds for scholarships for underprivileged athletes.

Dumpson later became the director of an athletic program for the Nassau County Corrections Center. He passed away in 2014.

### [The Other Boys of Summer](#) November Update

Since January the film has been to 18 venues and screened more than 20 times. In 2019, the program was enjoyed by corporations, MLB Youth Academies, schools, museums and communities. The film shares the amazing stories of **John Miles**, **Jim Robinson**, **Pedro Sierra** and other legends.

Director **Lauren Meyer** has partnered with [Teambrown Apparel](#) to make shirts and hoodies available this holiday season. Check them out:

<https://www.teambrownapparel.com/>

## The 2019 Thomas R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship Family awardees: Each recipient received \$1,000

### Jimmie Crutchfield Scholarship

#### Joseph Young

Hello everyone, my name is Joseph Young! As a Florida native with a passion for learning, I am so honored to be the recipient of this scholarship award! Schooling and education have always been a priority in my life ever since I was young; however, I owe most of that desire to my mother. Since I was homeschooled, she was my teacher and motivator and the one who instilled an ethic of hard work and integrity beginning in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. I am so excited to take that ethic with me into my college years at **Rollins College**. Continuing to build upon my childhood hobby of art, I will be **studying studio art** at the beautiful liberal arts campus in Winter Park, Florida. I thank the Society of American Baseball Research for giving me the opportunity to financially afford my college education. Baseball has been such an active part of my life ever since my father first took me to a spring training game. To be able to research into the culturally rich heritage of Jimmie Crutchfield and the Negro Leagues was an honor and a pleasure. I look forward to more opportunities to broaden my knowledge in a wide array of areas throughout college. Again, thank you for the opportunity afforded to me and for being a part of my dream!



### Normal "Tweed" Webb Scholarship

#### Ian Cohen

My name is Ian Cohen and I'm a freshman at **Arizona State University**. I'm studying **Sports Business** at the W. P. Carey School of Business. Baseball and sports as a whole to me have really been a backbone for my childhood. As a senior in high school, I competed on the swim and dive team. As a freshman and sophomore in high school, I was on the JV football team. I've been playing baseball since the age of 3, soccer from when I was 3 through the 8th grade. I've always been inspired by the Negro Leagues every trip I take to Cooperstown. This is because of the endless scrutiny the players faced when they played. It's always really hard to do something you love, especially in the spotlight, when you have so much hate coming at you. I hope as the days go on; everyone takes a minute to appreciate what players had to go through compared to present day.



**Information about our scholarships and library grants are available at:**  
<https://www.larrylester42.com/malloy-conference.html>

## 2019 Annual SABR Negro Leagues Committee/Jerry Malloy Conference Award WINNERS.

Thank you for voting . . .

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*.

- **Jeremy Beer** for *Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball's Greatest Forgotten Player*
- **James E. Brunson III**, for *Black Baseball, 1858-1900, A Comprehensive Record of the Teams, Players, Managers, Owners and Umpires* (3 volume set)
- **Kazuo Sayama & Bill Staples, Jr.**, for *Gentle Black Giants: A History of Negro Leaguers in Japan*

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.

- **Vanessa Ivy Rose** for her presentation at the Detroit Centennial Conference entitled, *Restorative Options for Baseball Integration/Inclusion of the Negro Leagues*.

Ms. Rose got lots of votes . . .

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.

- **Mike Lynch** for his essential statistical repository of Negro Baseball League data on [Seamheads.com](http://Seamheads.com).

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 America values.

- **Gary Ashwill** and **Kevin Johnson** for their work in creating the most comprehensive online database, [Seamheads.com](http://Seamheads.com) for Negro League statistics, along with genealogy, military, passenger lists and burial records.

We did have a shout-out for the documentary *The Other Boys of Summer!*

## Remember Us

By **Philip Ross**, Co-Author  
with Pedro Sierra of the *Negro Leagues A to Z*

**T**hey made the rules,  
They never gave us call,  
But they couldn't stop us from playing baseball.

We made up teams with clever names,  
And had great players that played great games.

At every turn they worked to keep us out,  
But we didn't give in and just sit and pout.

Long bus rides didn't deter us,  
They never broke our spirit.  
The segregation and the catcalls,  
Yeah, we could hear it all.

Jim Crow was always there trying to lock the door,  
But we played on and we heard the crowds roar.

Now we can look back, a little past our prime,  
And everyone can see how keeping us out was a colossal waste of time.

Just keep in mind what we did on the field.  
We never gave in; we never did yield.

So when you go the ballpark by car or by bus,  
Have a good time watching today's players,  
But take a moment and please remember us!

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## Black Ball Launches at new line of apparel in 2020



Our Black Ball brand/logo was established in 1994 by Mark Howard. We're re-launching our brand and logo December of 2019 via [www.blackballnlb.com](http://www.blackballnlb.com) this is Black Ball 25th Anniversary Edition and Negro League Baseball 100th Anniversary Celebration 2020.

Black Ball clothing, memorabilia and accessories will once again pay homage to the father of Negro League Baseball, Rube Foster, the team's, team owners, the players and the communities that were impacted by Negro League Baseball globally.

For more information contact Black Ball NLB, LLC Managing Partner Marc Anthony Porch @ (309) 222-3631

## Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A  
BIRTHDAY CARD.

### DECEMBER

- 2<sup>ND</sup> - HENRY ELMORE - 78
- 3<sup>RD</sup> - **BILL HAYDEN - 95**
- 6<sup>TH</sup> - BILL LITTLE - 85
- 7<sup>TH</sup> - ENRIQUE MAROTO - 87
- 9<sup>TH</sup> - CLIFFORD "QUACK" BROWN - 89
- 14<sup>TH</sup> - **HENRY SAVERSON - 90**
- 16<sup>TH</sup> - JOE MARBURY - 81
- 21<sup>ST</sup> - CHARLES WELLS - 88, PAUL CASANOVA - 78
- 23<sup>RD</sup> - **MAYNARD JORDAN - 91**
- 25<sup>TH</sup> - JOHN MITCHELL - 82
- 26<sup>TH</sup> - **ORLANDO O'FARRILL - 97**, REGGIE HOWARD - 85
- 27<sup>TH</sup> - JIM COBBIN - 85

### JANUARY

- 9<sup>TH</sup> - FRANK MARSH - 89
- 21<sup>ST</sup> - **JIM ROBINSON - 90**
- 26<sup>TH</sup> - **RON TEASLEY - 93**
- 27<sup>TH</sup> - **SAM TAYLOR - 91**
- 28<sup>TH</sup> - TOMMY TAYLOR - 82
- 30<sup>TH</sup> - LONNIE HARRIS - 89



### FEBRUARY

- 4<sup>TH</sup> - **ERNIE NIMMONS - 90**
- 5<sup>TH</sup> - HANK AARON - 86
- 9<sup>TH</sup> - MIKE HOULEMARD - 88

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## SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

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

*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!

**I am happy to report there are no player deaths this quarter. However, we note the passing of Satchel Paige, the race horse.**

### Race Horse Satchel Paige Euthanized At Santa Anita

ARCADIA, CA — October 19, 2019. A 3-year-old gelding was humanely euthanized after breaking his left front ankle in the fifth race at Santa Anita Saturday. The death of Satchel Paige marks the 34th horse euthanized at the track since December 26. Jockey Ruben Fuentes was uninjured.

A necropsy was to be performed by the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine on behalf of the California Horse Racing Board. The results will help determine what, if anything, could have prevented the horse's injury, officials said.

The Stronach Group, which operates Santa Anita Park, released statement discussing the incident, Saturday.

"After being pulled up at the 3/8th pole, Satchel Paige was immediately evaluated by a team of on-track veterinarians, led by Santa Anita Park veterinarian Dr. Dana Stead, and transported in the equine ambulance. Dr. Stead observed that the horse had suffered an open fracture of his left front ankle and made the decision to humanely euthanize the gelding.

". . . The Stronach Group and Santa Anita safety measures put horse and rider safety above all else. Santa Anita and The Stronach Group remain committed to leading transformative change in this traditional sport."

Satchel Paige was racing for breeder/owner Nick Alexander, and was trained by Phil D'Amato and his staff, the group said. He had six career starts, with no victories, one second-place finish, one third-place finish and \$24,000 in earnings, according to Equibase.com.

