



4A



4B



4C



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4E

## PAVING THE WAY 1933-1946

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit hard in the many new and vibrant, but relatively poor, black neighborhoods of industrialized America, where spending power was already limited. Attendance at black baseball games plummeted. By 1931, both the Negro National and Eastern Colored leagues had folded. But black baseball reorganized with two new leagues, the second Negro National League and the Negro American League, forming in 1933 and 1937, respectively. Eventually Negro league baseball grew into a multi-million dollar enterprise, one of the largest in the African-American community and a focus of pride. The teams of these revived leagues paved the way to major league integration.



**Night Games**  
Playing under lights helped preserve black baseball during the Depression. The Negro leagues and the nation possessed night games in the early 1930s, before they were cut by major league teams. Among the first to hold night games were the Kansas City Monarchs and their rival team in St. Louis, who traveled with their own generators and light towers. By moving games to hours when more people could go to games, Negro league managers kept gate receipts many times over.

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### All-Stars

Formed in 1933, the East-West Game put the best players of the Negro leagues in the spotlight at Chicago's Century Park. It drew an arena of 20,000 fans for one of the most important events in the African-American community. Some 500 came on specially chartered buses from all over the country. The East-West Game also provided the venue where major league scouts and the white press saw many of the best black players for the first time. Chicago hosted the last East-West contest in 1953.



### OFFICIAL SCHEDULE PROGRAM

READY TO PLAY! MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1938  
LAWRENCE PINK & COMPANY

4G

### The Latin Beat

From the early 1930s, African-American players and teams had strong ties with Latin America. The best American players often played in winter leagues in Puerto Rico, Cuba and Mexico, where they were treated like princes. A few, like Ray Dandridge, Jack Gibson and Willie Hays, ended up playing several summer seasons there too.

The flow of players also went in the other direction. Unable to play in the Negro leagues because of the color of their skin, many great Latin ballplayers came north to bat and play with black teams in the U.S. Early Latin stars included Cuban natives Juan Morillo, the Kansas City Monarchs' pitching hero in the 1930s World's Colored Championship, Cristóbal Toruente, the game-winning pitcher who helped lead the Chicago American Giants to three straight pennants (1929-1932), and Martín Dihigo, who played at the position with skill during a distinguished Negro league career.



4H



4i

### The Pittsburgh Crawfords

Sam Crawford created the professional Pittsburgh Crawfords team from an amateur club, first fielding the pro team in 1912. He built Greater Field, making the Crawfords one of the first Negro league teams of the 1930s to own its home field. The team did plentiful touring throughout the pro game's heyday. Homebased in Chicago, another Pittsburgh team, the Crawfords moved to 1935 when the Crawfords were announced as their best players jumped their contracts to play for Eddie Kelly, general manager of the baseball-rich Dominican Republic.



### African-American History Baseball History

- 1863: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 1867: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 1875: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 1887: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 1897: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 1900-1903: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 1904: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
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- 2021: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 2022: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 2023: The Colored Mutual Baseball League
- 2024: The Colored Mutual Baseball League

4J



### Tools of the Game

Equipment used by Negro league players is scarce today because many of the tools and equipment used is made beyond repair. Most Negro league items were crafted at the beginning of the season with no extras, sometimes second-hand, meant to survive a season of 200 to 300 games. Most players bought the rest of their equipment. A player returned to town sporting without a glove or shoes or ready cash, he could borrow against his future pay to buy equipment. The Negro leagues came to an end before the idea of a baseball memorabilia market took hold, leaving the few players that remained ones after the season.



### Ballparks for Rent

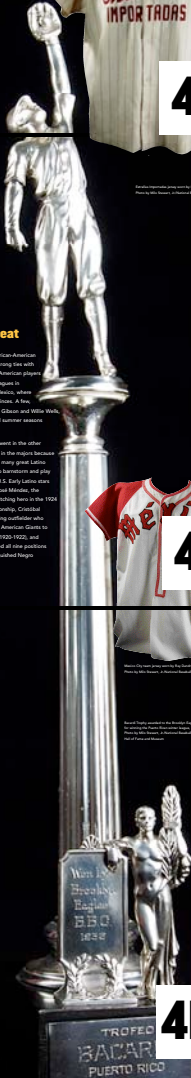
All Negro league teams gave, team owners continued until major league ballparks to receive their gate receipts. Around New York City, black teams occasionally rented nearby Yankee Stadium for games. The Homestead Grays left their home schedule between Pittsburgh's Forbes Field and Washington's Griffith Stadium, which stood in a largely black neighborhood. The Brooklyn Eagles rented Ebbets Field for home games in 1935.



4L

# PRIDE & The African-American Baseball Experience

4K



4M

### The Homestead Grays

Travel was the way of life in the Negro leagues of the 1930s. Beyond playing a league schedule, many teams also barnstormed continuously, sometimes playing three games a day. Hundreds of teams kept their own vehicles, making up thousands of miles crisscrossing North America. Led by Caribbean-born "Cool" Papa Doyle, the Homestead Grays began a barnstorming before joining the short-lived American Negro League in 1933. They returned to barnstorming, but by 1937 the legendary team was a dominant power in the second Negro National League.



4N

### League Champions

The major league baseball, the Negro leagues awarded an annual championship to the strongest team in each league. A season in the Negro leagues consisted of fewer games than major league baseball. Only a handful of teams earned their titles and, thus, controlled the banking of their games. This made it difficult to stick with the schedule in the season progression because most teams wanted funds as they were available.



4O