

Forgotten Heroes:

George “Tubby” Scales



by

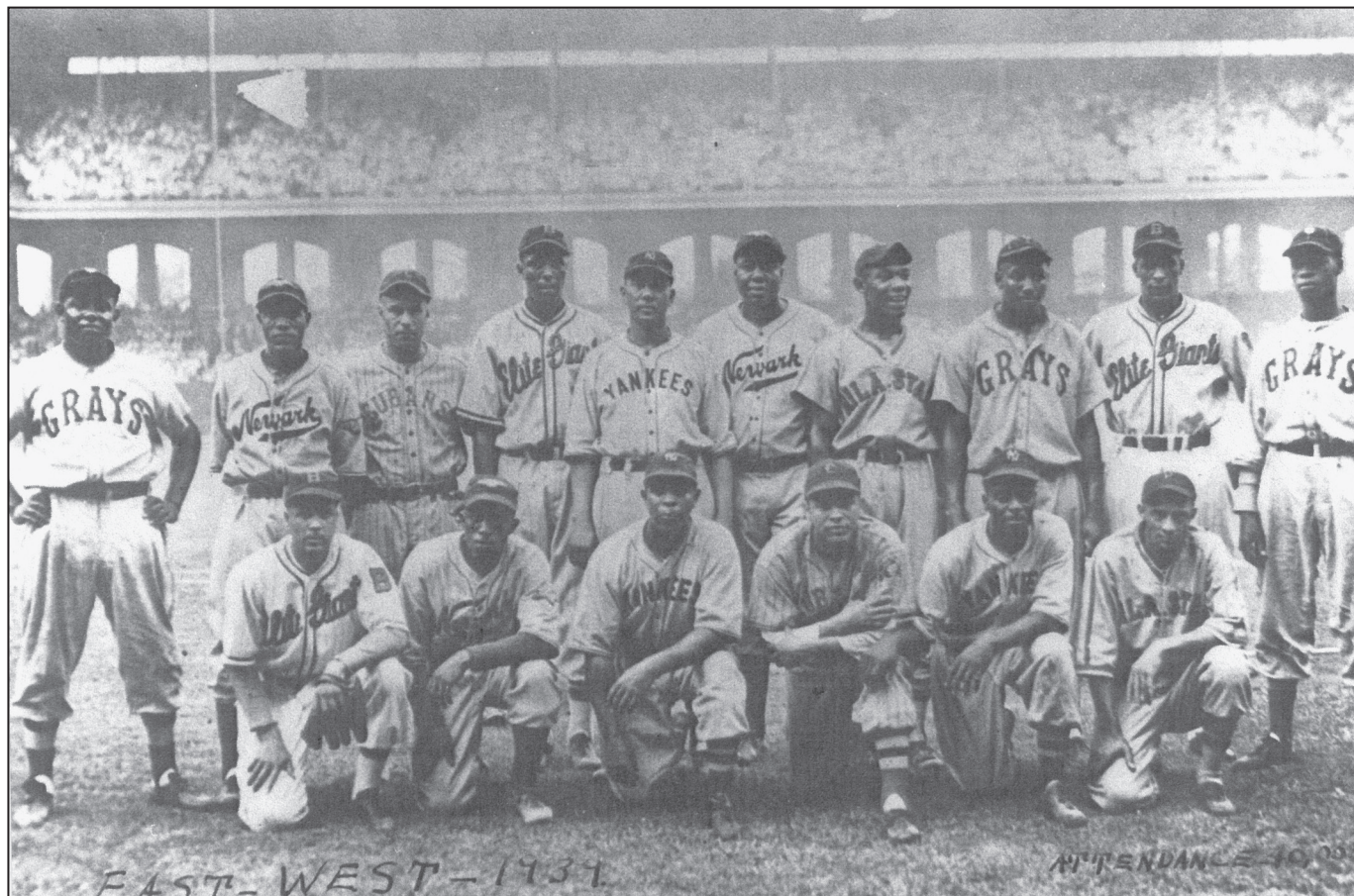
Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

and

Luis Munoz

East -West All Star Game (1939)



West Squad

East-West All Star Game (1939)
Comiskey Park (Chicago, IL)

(standing – left to right: **Walter “Buck” Leonard**, **Willie Wells**, Jose M. Fernandez, Sammy T. Hughes, **George “Tubby” Scales**, **George “Mule” Suttles**, Pat Patterson, **Josh Gibson**, Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright and Roy Partlow. kneeling – left to right: Bill Byrd, **Leon Day**, Bill Holland, Cando Lopez, Homer “Goose” Curry and Roy “Red” Parnell.)

George “Tubby” Scales was born on August 16, 1900 in Talladega, Alabama.

He was 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed 215 pounds during his playing career. He got his nickname of “Tubby” because of his stocky build.



George “Tubby” Scales
1900-1976

During his playing career, “Tubby” mainly played second base and third base. Scales batted from the right hand side of the plate and threw right handed. Scales was an excellent hitter who always made good contact and delivered in the clutch. According to Buck Leonard (Negro League great and member of National Baseball Hall of Fame), George was the best curve ball hitter that he ever saw play. George was an outstanding fielder who could play multiple positions. During his prime, he was known as one of the best at turning a double play in Negro League baseball. Even though he didn’t have a lot of natural speed and range, he made up for it with alert play, intelligence, hustle, a strong throwing arm and a knack for somehow always being in the right place at the right time.

Besides his outstanding skills on the field as a player during his baseball career, he is often best remembered for his managerial skills. In addition to managing in the United States for the New York Black Yankees, Baltimore Elite Giants and Birmingham Black Barons, Scales managed for fifteen seasons in Puerto Rico. He is considered by Latin American baseball historians as the greatest manager in the history of Puerto Rican baseball.

Scales’ career in professional baseball spanned over 40 years, starting in 1919 as a young infielder for the Montgomery Grey Sox (Negro Southern League) and ending in 1960 as the manager of the Ponce Leones (Puerto Rican Winter League).

Early Baseball Career

Scales honed his baseball skills on the sandlots of Alabama before going to college. George attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama and played shortstop on the college baseball team.

Negro League Career

Scales began his professional baseball career in 1919 when he joined the Montgomery Grey Sox of the Negro Southern League. George played the 1919 and 1920 baseball seasons with the Grey Sox. Montgomery had a very good team during this time. In 1919 they were defeated by the Atlanta Cubs for the Negro Southern League title. The Grey Sox had another good season in 1920 and finished the year with a record of 47-39 (.628) which was good enough for second place behind the Knoxville Giants who were 55-21 (.724) in the final league standings.

George played briefly for the Pittsburgh Keystones at the start of the 1921 baseball season. Scales then moved up to the Negro National League (NNL) when he was signed to play third base for the St. Louis Giants. The leading hitters for the 1921 Giants were Charlie Blackwell (.484), Oscar Charleston (.437) and Dan Kennard (.338). The team’s pitching staff was anchored by Big Bill Drake (22-11), Jimmy Oldham (12-5) and John Finner (11-7). Scales only had a mediocre year at the plate in his rookie season and finished the year with a .264 batting average in “league”

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Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette
 Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 09-17-21

games. St. Louis finished the season with a Negro National League record of 40-28 (.588). They ended the year in third place behind the league champion Chicago American Giants (42-22) and the second place Kansas City Monarchs (50-31). The highlight of the St. Louis Giants' 1921 season was a post season barnstorming tour against the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League. During this series Scales showed he could hit Major League pitching by going 7 for 21 for a .333 batting average. The St. Louis Giants also played against the Major League All Stars after both teams' regular seasons had concluded.

THE PROBABLE LINE-UPS		
Indianapolis	Pos.	St. Louis
Washington	ss	Hewitt
Kenyon	cf	Charleston
Mackey	3b	Scales
Taylor	1b	McAdoo
Holloway	2b	Holtz
Powell	c	Kennard
Woods	lf	Dudley
Sterens	rf	Blockwell
Jeffries		Duke
McClure		Dixon
Williams		Fermuth
Mahoney	p	Taylor

St. Louis Stars (1921)
 Starting Line-up
 vs
 Indianapolis ABC's

Before the start of the 1922 Negro National League season, the St. Louis franchise changed ownership and became the St. Louis Stars. According to the research of Larry Lester and Dick Clark, the St. Louis Stars finished the season in fifth place in the Negro National League standings with a record of 35-26 (.574). The 1922 season was hotly contested with the Chicago American Giants claiming the league title. Even with their fifth place finish, the St. Louis Stars were only two games out of first place at the end of the season. Negro League researchers differ



St. Louis Stars (1922)
 (Scales – laying down first on right)

greatly on Scales' batting average for the 1922 season. John Holway has Scales with a .403 batting average when "league" and "non-league" games were combined together for one total. However, Larry Lester and Dick Clark have Scales with a meager .194 batting average for "league" games only. What we do know is that he was severely hampered during the season by a broken leg he suffered sliding into third base.

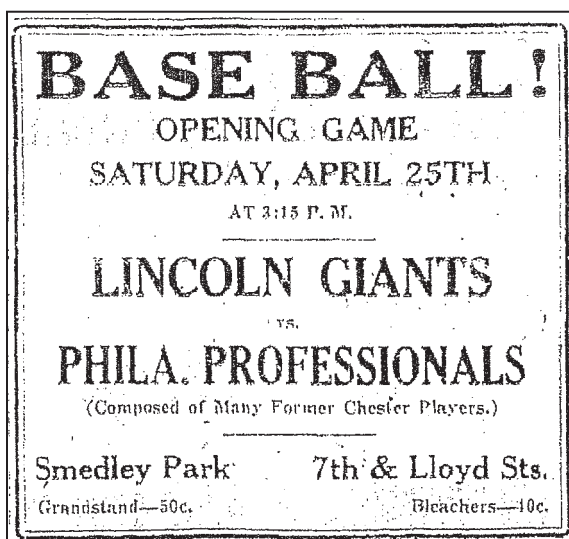


St. Louis Stars vs Indianapolis ABC's
Indianapolis, Indiana
05-07-22

George started the 1923 season with the St. Louis Stars, but moved to the New York Lincoln Giants of the Eastern Colored League in mid August. Scales was leading the Stars in hitting with a .390 batting average when he left for New York. When "Tubby" joined the Lincoln Giants he continued with his hot hitting and finished the season with a .408 batting average and a .772 slugging percentage. The Lincoln Giants were owned by James Keenan and managed by legendary pitching great "Smoky Joe" Williams. Scales came into his own as a hitter during the 1923 season. His complete hitting statistics in "league" games for the 1923 season are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1923	St. Louis New York	59	184	47	75	12	8	13	56	7	.408	.772

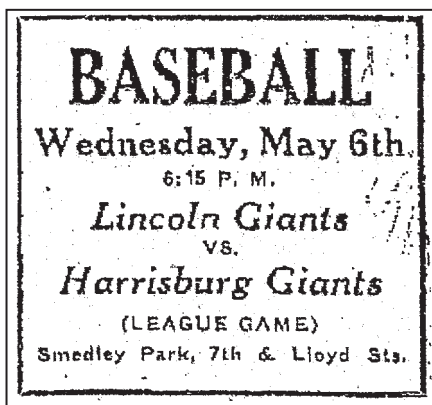
The New York Lincoln Giants as a team, however, did not have a very good season. They finished the inaugural season of the Eastern Colored League (ECL) with a record of 16-22 (.421). Their below five hundred performance put them in next to last place in the "league" just ahead of the cellar dwelling Baltimore Black Sox. The Hilldale club won the Eastern Colored League championship with a record of 32-17 (.653).



New York Lincoln Giants
vs
Philadelphia Professionals
04-21-25

Scales returned to the Lincoln Giants for the 1924 Eastern Colored League (ECL) season. New York fielded a strong team that included six hitters that batted over .300 for the season. These players were Bobo Leonard (.362), George Scales (.341), Gerald Williams (.320), Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (.316), Bob Hudseph (.313) and Rich Gee (.301). New York also got solid pitching from Dave Brown (22-11), John "Red" Taylor (15-8) and Bill Holland (11-8). The New York Lincoln Giants posted a record of 32-25 (.561) which was good enough for third place in the league behind the champion Hilldale club (47-22) and the second place Baltimore Black Sox (32-19).

The 1925 season was George's third straight with the New York Lincoln Giants. The team got outstanding hitting from Jules Thomas (.407), Orville Singer (.400), George Scales (.348), Richard Gee (.320) and Tom Gee (.311) during the 1925 Eastern Colored League season.



Chester Times
Chester, Pennsylvania
05-05-25

The Lincoln Giants, however, got no pitching and returned to being a second division team. They finished the Eastern Colored League season with a 7-39 (.152) record mired in last place in the final "league" standings. Hilldale won the championship for the third straight year. George also played for the Homestead Grays in October of 1925. The Grays had a very strong team and had already won over 95 games when Scales joined the team. With George in the starting line-up at third base and batting fifth in the line-up, Homestead continued its winning ways. Homestead boasted a record of 112-18 (.862) on September 15th.

Before the start of the 1926 Eastern Colored League (ECL) season, the Newark Stars joined the league. In order to be as competitive as possible Newark signed several established players that included: Tom Allen (first base), Tom Gee (catcher), Willie "Lefty" Gisentaner (pitcher), George "Tubby" Scales (second base), Ted Page (outfield) and Dick Seay (shortstop).

The Newark Stars struggled from the start of the 1926 season. Other than Scales who led the team in hitting with a .296 batting average, no one else produced at the plate. In addition the Stars had the worst pitching staff in the league. By midseason, the owners of the Newark Stars had had enough and disbanded the team. The Newark Stars folded with a 1-10 (.091) record and were in a distant last place in the league standings.

When the Newark Stars folded Scales rejoined his old team the New York Lincoln Giants. The 1926 Lincoln Giants were managed by John Henry "Pop" Lloyd. The Lincoln Giants had a strong hitting line-up who were led by Orville Singer (.364), Pop Lloyd (.342), Richard Gee (.295) and Bob Hudspeth (.294). "Tubby" fit right in and finished the season with a .299 batting average and a .480 slugging percentage. Unfortunately for Lloyd, the only two pitchers that he had on his squad who were even mildly effective were Rube Chambers (8-14) and Speed Gilmore (6-7). The New York Lincoln Giants finished the 1926 ECL season in fifth place with a 19-22 (.463) record. To put their season in perspective especially from a pitching stand point, Jesse "Nip" Winters (Hilldale) had a record of 23-4 and Claude "Red" Grier (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants) finished the season with a 25-12 record. Both of these pitchers individually won more games than the entire Lincoln Giants pitching staff. Dick Lundy, manager of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, led his team to the Eastern Colored League title at the end of the season.



Scales Slams Two Homeruns
Afro American
09-17-27

When the 1927 Eastern Colored League (ECL) season opened, "Tubby" was back in the line-up as the team's starting third baseman for the New York Lincoln Giants. By early June he had transitioned to shortstop because of the weak hitting of Newt Robinson who had started the season as the starting shortstop. The team struggled early in the year and finished the first half of the season with a record of 12-18 (.400). Behind a strong hitting starting line-up, the Lincoln Giants rebounded and finished the year with a record of 21-22 (.488). Only one member (Newt Robinson) of the team's starting lineup failed to hit .300 for the season. Connie Rector was the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 7-7 (.500).

The complete starting line-up for the Lincoln Giants and their batting averages for the 1927 ECL season were as follows:

New York Lincoln Giants (1927)

Position	Player	Average	Position	Player	Average
1B	Pep Young	.303	OF	Charlie Mason	.362
2B	Pop Lloyd	.350	OF	George Johnson	.310
SS	Newt Robinson	.146	OF	Esteban Montalvo	.348
3B	George Scales	.446			
C	Julio Rojo	.336	P	Connie Rector	.429

Scales had one of the best seasons of his professional career during 1927. His complete statistics for “league” games during the 1927 Eastern Colored League season are as follows.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927	New York	23	74	20	33	9	1	2	20	2	.446	.676

The New York Lincoln Giants were expelled from the Eastern Colored League in late June of 1927 when ECL officials dropped them from the “league” because they continued to use an “illegal” player (Esteban Montalvo) and refused to return him to the Western Cuban Stars of the Western Colored League. The New York Lincoln Giants continued to play ball on an independent schedule after they were expelled from the Eastern Colored League (ECL). One of the biggest games they played during their after season barnstorming schedule was against the Trenton All Stars. The game became an instant sell-out when Trenton bolstered their roster with New York Yankee greats Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. The “Babe” responded by hitting three homeruns in the game and led the All Stars to an 8-4 victory.

George Scales returned to the New York Lincoln Giants as their starting shortstop for the 1928 season. During the second week of April the owners of the Eastern Colored League teams met and decided to play the rest of the season on an independent basis. Pop Lloyd was the manager of the team and continued to play second base. In 1928 Lloyd had one of the best seasons of any player in the history of Negro League baseball. According to Negro League researcher John Holway, Pop Lloyd batted .563 for the season. Unfortunately for Lloyd, he only got run support from Julio Rojo (.351) and George Scales. Scales had another strong season in 1928 and finished the season with a .324 batting average and a .576 slugging percentage. Jesse “Nip” Winters (10-10) and Connie Rector (6-9) were the team’s two best pitchers. Records are incomplete for the 1928 season and no won-loss record for the team is presented. However, from newspaper accounts it appears the New York Lincoln Giants had a very successful independent season.

HOMESTEAD GRAYS PLAY FOR TITLE

The Homestead Grays, who were rained out at the local park Monday afternoon, have arranged a series with the Lincoln Giants, New York colored club, for the championship of the country.

Lincoln Giants are classed as the cream of eastern clubs and there has always been much discussion as to which team was the better. Their first game will be Friday, June 29, with a double header the following day. The two teams will proceed to New York for a double-header July 1.

Following the championship series, the Grays have been booked to appear at Grey park, July 13 and 14, and a Sunday engagement on July 20.

Even though there was no formal league in the East after the Eastern Colored League (ECL) folded before mid season in 1928, the New York Lincoln Giants and Homestead Grays agreed to play a self-appointed “Colored Championship Series” with the first game being played on June 29th. The two teams were scheduled to play a five game series with the final two games being played as doubleheader in New York. The results of the series were not published.

Homestead Grays vs Lincoln Giants
Championship Series
The Zanesville Signal
Zanesville, Ohio
06-19-28

Before the start of the 1929 baseball season, the American Negro League was founded. Teams that competed in this league and the final “league” standings for the 1929 baseball season were:

American Negro League (1929)

Team	Games	Won	Lost	Percentage
Baltimore Black Sox	70	49	21	.700
New York Lincoln Giants	66	40	26	.606
Homestead Grays	63	34	29	.540
Hilldale	74	39	35	.527
Bacharach Giants	64	19	45	.298
Cuban Stars (East)	54	15	39	.278

Scales started the 1929 season with the New York Lincoln Giants. New York fielded a strong team that included Charles “Chino” Smith (.464), George Scales (.397), Pop Lloyd (.362), Orville Riggins (.331) and Namon Washington (.323). The Giants also got excellent pitching from Connie Rector (20-2) and Bill Holland (9-4). On August 25th George was traded to the Homestead Grays for hitting star John Beckwith (.439). Scales started the next night (August 26th) for the Grays and went three for four. Homestead also had an excellent team that was led by the hitting of Oscar Owens (.389), Jap Washington (.378), Vic Harris (.350) and Rev Cannady (.337). Sam Streeter (14-6) and Smoky Joe Williams were the top pitchers for the Grays in 1929. Tubby did not disappoint the Grays and finished the season with a .390 batting average and a .628 slugging percentage. The Homestead Grays as a team went 34-29 (.540) and finished the American Negro League season in third place behind New York and Baltimore. After the season, the Homestead Grays met the Chicago American Giants of the Negro National League in a “Colored Championship Series.” Chicago swept Homestead in five straight games behind the pitching of Webster McDonald (2-0), Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (2-0) and Willie “Big Bill” Foster (1-0).

FIRST GAME			
HOMESTEAD GRAYS		LIN. GIANTS	
Gray.cf.	r h a e	r h a e	
Holland.cf.	0 1 0 0	V. Harris.cf.	3 3 0 0
Washington.lf.	2 2 0 0	Graham.rf.	0 0 0 0
Smith.rf.	3 2 1 0	Cannady.ss.	0 2 3 1
Riggins.3b.	1 1 2 1	Beckwith.3b.	0 2 2 0
Scales.2b.	1 3 6 0	Mason.lf.	0 0 0 0
Lloyd.lb.	1 2 1 0	Washington.lb.	0 0 1 1
Spearman.c.	0 0 1 0	Ewing.c.	0 1 0 1
Yancey.ss.	0 2 2 3	Harris.2b.	0 0 4 0
Rector.p.	0 0 0 1	Williams.p.	10 2 0
Totals	8 13 13 5	Totals	6 10 13 3
SCORE BY INNINGS			
Homestead Grays	0 0 1 0 3 0	0 0 1-6	
Lincoln Giants	2 0 2 0 0 1	3 0 x-8	
Stolen bases—Manson and N. Washington. Double plays—Yancey to Scales to Lloyd; Ewing to Washington. Two-base hits—N. Washington, 2; V. Harris, 2; Smith, 2; Scales and Lloyd. Strike-outs—Williams, 6; Rector, 1. Base on balls—Off Williams, 4; Rector, 3. Umpires—Forbes at plate; Condon and White on bases.			

Homestead Grays vs Lincoln Giants

Scales Goes 3 for 4
(1929)

There was no formal “league” in the East in 1930. All the major teams played their seasons on an independent schedule basis. Cumberland Posey’s Homestead Grays were led by a star studded line-up that included:

Homestead Grays (1930)

Position	Player	Average	Position	Player	Average
1B	Oscar Charleston	.337	OF	Vic Harris	.341
2B	George Scales	.373	OF	Chaney White	.312
SS	Jake Stephens	.349	OF	Bill Evans	.240
3B	Judy Johnson	.250	P	Lefty Williams	
C	Josh Gibson	.261	P	Smoky Joe Williams	

Charles “Lefty” Williams was the ace of the pitching staff. He is said to have won 28 straight games against all levels of competition and finished the season with a perfect 28-0 record. The Homestead Grays pitching staff also included George Britt, Sam Cooper, Oscar Owens and Smoky Joe Williams.



Homestead Grays (1930)
(Scales – back row third from right)

During the 1930 season, George Scales had one of the best games of his career. The game occurred in early July when the Homestead Grays played the Forest Towels baseball team of Columbus (Ohio). Scales collected seven hits (three singles, two doubles, one triple and one homerun) in seven at bats in the game. The Grays as a team banged out 32 hits in a 23-4 victory. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Afro American on July 5th, the victory against the Columbus team put the Grays over the 75 victories mark for the season.

Scales' complete statistics for the 1930 season against "top level competition" is as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1930	Homestead	36	134	32	50	10	3	3	16	1	.373	.560

JOE WILLIAMS FANS 27 BATTERS IN GAME

What is perhaps one of the most noted achievements to the credit of Smoky Joe Williams, hurler of the Homestead Grays, was recorded on last Saturday night at Kansas City, where the Grays' 50-year-old veteran turned in a 1 to 0 12-inning victory, and fanned 27 of the Kansas City batsmen, limiting the club to one hit.

Brewer, who pitched for the Monarchs, also worked in brilliant fashion, having 20 whiffs to his credit. He limited the Grays to four hits.

The Grays are scheduled to play Wednesday at Dennison, Ohio, where they will meet the Cleveland P. R. R. nine. Thursday the Grays invade Langley High School field; Friday they are scheduled to play at St. John's and on Saturday evening appear at Homewood to resume their series with the Homewood club, their chief city rival.

The Homestead Grays had an excellent season in 1930. On May 23rd they were 35-2 (.946) and had a record of 62-4-1 (.939) by June 15th. According to an article that appeared in the Altoona Mirror (Altoona, PA) on June 17th, the Grays had a winning streak of 33 straight games early in the season before being defeated. After the loss they went on a 19 game winning streak. Over 53 games they only suffered one loss. The Pittsburgh Courier reported that the Grays finished their regular season with a record of 127-7-2 (.948).

One of the many highlights of the season for the Grays occurred in August when a 50 year old "Smoky Joe" Williams took the mound against the Kansas City Monarchs and struck out 27 Monarch batters in a 12 inning 1-0 victory.

After the regular 1930 season, the Grays met the New York Lincoln Giants in a "Championship Series." Homestead defeated New York six games to four to win the "Colored Baseball Championship of the East." The Grays won the championship by scoring four runs in the top of the ninth inning of game ten to give them a 5-2 victory. The top hitting stars during the series for the Grays were Vic Harris (17 for 38 - .436 batting average), George Scales (16 for 40 - .400 batting average) and Josh Gibson (14 for 38 - .368 batting average). George Britt was the top pitcher in the series for the Grays with a record of 2-1.

For the second straight year (1931) there was no formal league in the East. After spring training in Hot Springs (AR), the Homestead Grays started their 1931 regular season on April 11th with a series in St. Louis against the Stars before a crowd of a mere 460 fans. The Grays beat the St. Louis Stars by a score of 6-3 in their first official game of the 1931 season. From St. Louis, the Grays played their way back to the East. The team started the year off with a nine game winning streak before they were defeated by the Hagerstown Hubs by a score of 5-4. The Homestead Grays began the 1931 baseball season just like they had ended the previous season, they won ball games. Homestead played baseball virtually every day of the baseball season. Cumberland Posey, owner of the Homestead Grays, booked games against anyone he could schedule. His Grays team played against Negro League teams, town teams, industrial league teams, factory teams, independent teams, athletic clubs, church league teams, Major League all star squads, Minor League teams and even college squads during the 1931 baseball season. By playing such an aggressive barnstorming schedule, the Homestead Grays spent most of the year on the road and away from their home ball park of Forbes Field. When they were at home they did not disappoint their local fans. The Grays played 22 games at Forbes Field and finished the season with a won-loss record of 17-4-1 (.810) at Forbes. The Grays also played twelve games against “white” Minor League teams from the Middle Atlantic League and the Three “I” League. The Grays had a 10-2 (.833) won-loss record against their “white” Minor League opponents. The Grays finished the year with a record of 143-29-2 (.831). The team’s total of wins could have been even greater because fourteen (14) of their scheduled games were rained out. Only three teams gave them any real competition during the season. The Baltimore Black Sox took nine games from the Grays, Hilldale defeated Homestead five times and the Kansas City Monarchs beat them three times. During the regular season, the Homestead Grays had two seventeen (17) consecutive wins streaks. In short, they totally dominated virtually everyone they played.



Homestead Grays (1931)
(Scales – back row third from right)

The 1931 Homestead Grays were led by the hitting of Oscar Charleston (.341 w/17 homeruns), Josh Gibson (.308 w/40 homeruns), Ted Page (.344), George Scales (.333 w/20 homeruns) and Jud Wilson (.352 w/25 homeruns). According to research by Phil Dixon, during the 1931 season Homestead scored over 1,300 runs or between seven to eight runs a game. The Grays also had an outstanding pitching staff that included Charles “Lefty” Williams (23-4), George Britt (21-4), Willie “Big Bill” Foster (20-3), Smoky Joe Williams (20-5), Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (16-4) and Roy Williams (14-4). The Grays’ pitchers hurled 21 shut outs and 28 one run games during the 1931 season. The team had virtually no weaknesses. The 1931 Grays team included seven players who would go on to be elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

They were Ray Brown, Oscar Charleston, Willie Foster, Josh Gibson, Willie Wells, Smoky Joe Williams and Jud Wilson. The 1931 Homestead Grays are considered one of the best teams in the history of Negro League baseball.

According to the meticulous research by Phil Dixon of the Homestead Grays 1931 season, George Scales collected over 200 hits, 44 doubles, 20 homeruns and scored over 150 runs for the 1931 season. One of Scales' best games during 1931 was when he hit for the cycle (single, double, triple and homerun) on July 8th against the Klein's Chocolate Professionals in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Scales also went 5 for 5 in a game played in Wheeling, West Virginia on May 4th.

After the regular 1931 season, the Homestead Grays met the Kansas City Monarchs in a "Championship Series."

Homestead defeated the Kansas City Monarchs six games to three to win the "Colored Baseball Championship." The Grays were led in the series by the hitting of Oscar Charleston (22 for 43 - .511), William "Happy" Evans (9 for 22 - .409), Jud Wilson (11 for 28 - .393) and George Scales (11-31 - .355). Willie "Big Bill" Foster anchored the Grays pitching staff with a 3-0 record. Homestead finished the season the way they started the year; they were the "World's Champions of Colored Baseball."

Homestead Grays	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
J. Harris, cf	5	3	3	1	0	0
Page, rf	6	3	4	4	0	0
Wilson, ss	5	2	0	1	1	0
Charleston, lb	6	4	3	9	0	1
Scales, 3b	6	3	4	1	1	0
Gibson, lf	4	2	2	1	0	0
Radcliffe, c	5	1	1	3	0	0
Stevens, 2b	6	1	1	5	5	0
R. Williams, p	4	2	1	2	0	0
J. Williams, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	48	21	19	27	7	1
Ernest	000	000	000	—	0	
Homestead Grays	204	1000	302	—	21	

McIntyre 2, off Harriston 4; Wild pitch: McIntire; Passed ball: Evaris; Struck out: by McIntire 3, by Harriston 2, by Zentner 1, by R. Williams 4;

Homestead vs Ernest B.B.C.

Scales Goes 4 for 6
09-19-31

BASEBALL

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VS.

State Hospital Grays

Middletown Times Herald
Middletown, New York
07-22-32

Two major events occurred in black baseball in 1932. First Cumberland Posey, owner of the Homestead Grays and Detroit Wolves, founded the East-West League. Teams that competed in the East-West League included the Baltimore Black Sox, Cleveland Stars, Cuban Stars, Detroit Wolves, Homestead Grays, Hilldale, Newark Browns and Washington Pilots. The New York Black Yankees and the Pittsburgh Crawfords were associate members of the "new" league. The East-West League lasted only one season. The second major event in Negro League baseball was the formation of the New York Black Yankees. In building a team, George Scales was one of the first players that New York management recruited. George Scales was one of the key players in forming the New York Black Yankees because besides playing second base he was also the team's manager.

The New York Black Yankees put together a team that included Crush Holloway (.364), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (.294), Ted Page (.341), Clint Thomas (.317), Dave "Showboat" Thomas (.313) and Harry Williams (.333). Scales had a good season in the field and hit .328 against East-West League competition. The team's pitching staff included Bill Holland, Jesse Hubbard, Connie Rector, Mervyn "Red" Ryan and John "Neck" Stanley. With an excellent hitting lineup and outstanding pitching staff, the New York Black Yankees went 14-11 (.560) against East-West League teams and finished the season with a record of 148-27 (.846) when "league" and "non-league" were combined into one total.

There was no formal league in the East in 1933. The only organized league in black baseball in 1933 was the Negro National League (NNL). Only three of the top teams from the East joined the league. They were the Baltimore Black Sox, Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. The Grays didn't last long when they were expelled from the "league" on June 23rd for using a player who was under contract to another team. Hilldale and the Newark Dodgers were associate members of the Negro National League during the 1933 season. The New York Black Yankees had a very successful independent season in 1932 and James "Soldier Boy" Semler, owner of the Black Yankees, didn't see the need for changing a winning formula, so New York remained an independent team for the 1933 season.

On February 16, 1933 George Scales joined the other members of the New York Black Yankees and set sail for San Juan, Puerto to conduct spring training. The team also played numerous exhibition games against local competition during their stay on the island. According to an article that appeared in the Pittsburgh Courier the Black Yankees had a very successful spring training and returned to the United States the first week in April. The Black Yankees fielded a strong hitting line-up in 1933 that included John Beckwith (.357), Rev Cannady (.314), Fats Jenkins, Clint Thomas (.318) and Dave "Showboat" Thomas. New York also had a solid pitching staff that included Bill Holland, Luther Farrell, Connie Rector, Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe (who also caught), John "Neck" Stanley and Ted Trent. From all indications with George Scales managing the team, the New York Black Yankees had a very good season playing a barnstorming schedule.

BASEBALL

The Game of 1934, for Orange Co.
The Famous Grover Cleveland Alexander

HOUSE OF DAVID

Under the Arc Lights
VS.

BLACK YANKEES

State Hospital Grounds, Middletown, N. Y.
Monday Evening, August 6
8:30 p. m.

Also the FAMOUS PEPPITZ GAME will be played after the 5th inning

The FAMOUS DONKEY BALL GAME will be played on real donkeys, immediately after the regular game. This game will be worth the price of the admission alone.

SPECIAL FEATURE—Babe Didrikson, World's Olympic Woman Champion Athlete is With the House of David and Will Pitch 1 or 2 Innings Against the BLACK YANKEES.

Middletown Times Herald

08-04-34

The New York Black Yankees joined the Negro National League as an associate member and also played an independent schedule for the 1934 season. New York only managed a record of 2-10 against Negro National League teams in 1934 but were very competitive against "non-league" teams. In an article that appeared in the Syracuse Herald in late August, the Black Yankees billed themselves as the "Negro Champions of the World" and were on a 21 game winning streak when they met the Oswego Zetts. At the end of the season in mid October of 1934, the New York Black Yankees faced the Brooklyn Bushwicks with Dizzy Dean in an exhibition game. The Black Yankees prevailed by a score of 6-0. Some of the top players on the Black Yankees team in 1934 were John Beckwith (outfield), Rev Cannady (second base), Robert Clarke (catcher), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (outfield), Clyde Spearman (outfield), Clint Thomas (center field) and Dave "Showboat" Thomas (first base). George Scales managed the New York Black Yankees and filled in at second base and third base during the season.

Before the start of the 1935 Negro National League season, Scales joined the Homestead Grays as their starting third baseman. Homestead was led by the hitting of Jerry Benjamin (.394), Tommy Dukes (.381), Matthew "Lick" Carlisle (.379), Vic Harris (.342) and Buck Leonard (.332). Tubby had an off year at the plate and only hit .253 with a .432 slugging percentage in twenty-nine (29) Negro National League games. Ray Brown (12-4) and Willie Gisentaner (7-3) were the only two Grays pitchers who delivered during "league" games. Overall the Homestead Grays had a very disappointing Negro National League season. They finished the year with a record of 23-31 (.426). Their record left them 17 ½ games behind the Pittsburgh Crawfords (Negro National League champion) who had a record of 42-15 (.737).

Tuesday, July 2nd Athletic Field	BASEBALL AT CURWENSVILLE WORLD'S COLORED CHAMPIONS HOMESTEAD GRAYS vs. CURWENSVILLE C & C CLUB	Game Called at 4 P. M. ADMISSION Men 50c, Ladies and Children 25c
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The Clearfield Progress

Clearfield, Pennsylvania

07-01-35



New York Black Yankees (1936)
(Scales – back row third from right)

After only one season with Homestead, Tubby returned to the New York Black Yankees for the 1936 baseball season. The New York Black Yankees played the first half of the season on an independent schedule basis and then joined the Negro National League for the second half of the Negro National League season. The team struggled against “league” competition and finished the regular season in last place with a record of 7-14 (.333). The primary reasons the Black Yankees struggled was their weak hitting and lack of run production. Only two New York players hit over .280 in “league” games. These players were Jim Williams (.321) and George Scales (.286) with a .524 slugging percentage. According to research by John Holway, Scales had a .358 season batting average (fifth in the Negro National League) when “league” and “non-league” games were combined into one total. The Black Yankees got good pitching from Bill Holland (7-2), but nobody else on the staff was effective.



Estrellas Orientales (1937)

George Scales and many of the other Negro League stars did not play in the Negro American League or Negro National League during the 1937 baseball season. Instead they took the big money contracts that were being offered by owners of the Dominican League teams in Santo Domingo. All the players who jumped to the Dominican Republic were banned by Negro League baseball officials. Scales signed with and played for the Estrellas Orientales team.

**Negro All-Stars
Win Post Tourney**

DENVER, Aug. 10.—(AP)—The Negro All-Stars took the second game of a doubleheader from the Duncan, Okla., Halliburtons 11 to 1 early today to win the Denver Post baseball championship—a crown that a negro team won last year also.

Nearly all of the 6,000 fans who saw the Oklahoma team hand the negroes a 6 to 4 defeat last night—their first in the tournament—stayed to watch the All-Stars put the challengers in complete retreat during the early morning playoff.

The floodlight duel lasted four and a half hours.

The All-Stars, who moved in mile-high Denver from a barnstorming tour of the Dominican republic, dominated the final game as they had most of their earlier ones.

Matlock, the negro moundsman, allowed only seven hits.

The All-Stars, made up of former negro National league players, won seven games and lost one.

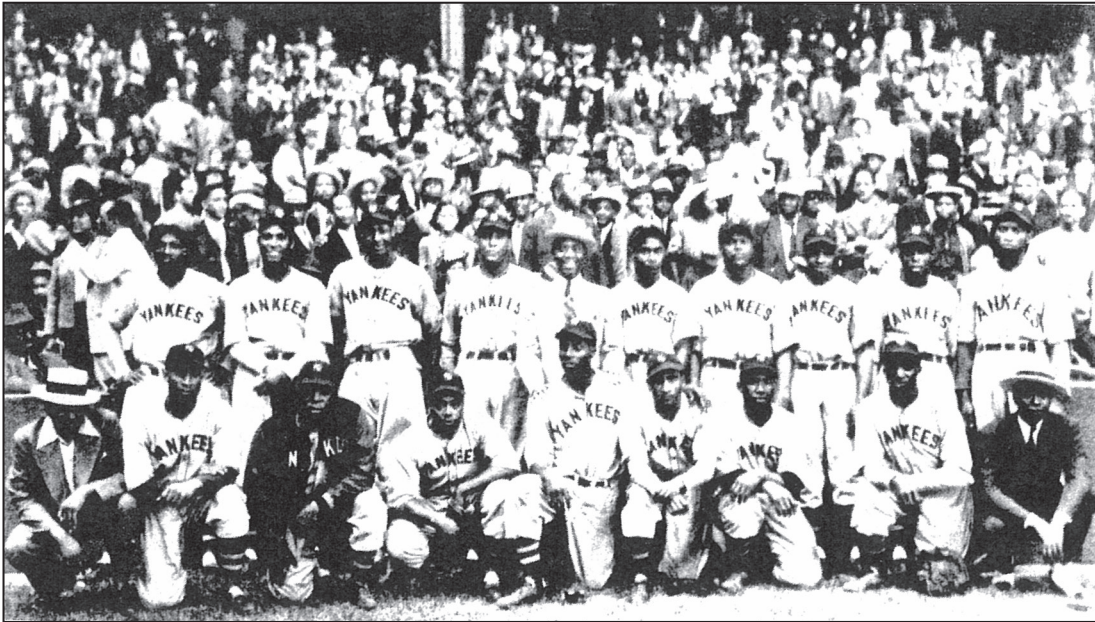
Ogden Standard-Examiner

08-10-37

After the 1937 Dominican League season was over, the Negro League players who had gone to play in the Dominican Republic were still banned by the Negro National League and were unable to sign with another “league” team. Their solution was to form their own barnstorming team. This team played under the following names: Trujillo All Stars, Dominican All Stars and the Negro League All Stars. The team included James “Cool Pappa” Bell, Chet Brewer, Josh Gibson, Bob Griffith, Leroy Matlock, Satchel Paige, Clarence “Spoony” Palm, Roy Parnell and George Scales. The highlight of their United States barnstorming tour was playing in and winning the prestigious Denver Post Tournament. The Denver Post Tournament brought together the top sixteen (16) semipro and independent teams in the country for a championship series. Included in the tournament besides the Ciudad Trujillo squad were Grover Cleveland Alexander’s McVittes Restaurant team (Springfield, IL), “Slingin” Sammy Baugh’s Pampa Oilers (TX) club, Roger Hornsby’s Denver Bay Refiners and Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle playing third base for the otherwise “all-white” Goalstone Brothers Jewelers team from Denver. The Ciudad Trujillo team opened tournament with Chet Brewer, Bob Griffith and Leroy Matlock pitching three straight shut outs. Ciudad Trujillo met the Halliburton Cementers from Duncan, Oklahoma in the finals. Behind the pitching of Leroy Matlock, the Trujillo All Stars easily won the final game of the tournament by a score of 11-2 and were crowned as the “Denver Post Tournament Champions.”

In early April of 1938 just after the Baltimore Elite Giants opened spring training at Wilson Park in Nashville (TN), the Elite Giants obtained Scales from the New York Black Yankees for shortstop Leroy Morney. Immediately upon joining the Elite Giants, George took over as Manager from Biz Mackey. Mackey stayed with the team and concentrated his fulltime efforts on catching and developing his young catching protégé (15 year old Roy Campanella). Spring training for the 1938 season only lasted one week before the team hit the road to start playing baseball. In latter years when Campanella was asked about spring training in the Negro Leagues, he had the following to say: “We had to play ourselves into shape.” Bill Byrd single-handedly led Baltimore both offensively and on the mound. When he wasn’t pitching, Bill played in the outfield. Byrd was the team’s leading hitter with a .381 batting average and the ace of the pitching staff with a 9-2 record. Other hitters who helped the Elite Giants’ offensive attack were Jim West (.359), Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright (.287) and Biz Mackey (.285). Scales played occasionally, most often pinch hitting or as a utility player. Lack of regular playing time hurt his batting average and George finished the season with a .230 batting average in twenty-eight (28) “league” games. Bob Griffith (7-4) and Andy “Pullman” Porter (5-1) helped support the Elite Giants on the mound. Complete records for the 1938 season are not available, but from research that has been uncovered Baltimore had a record of 23-9 (.719) for the 1938 Negro National League season. They finished the season in second place, only one and a half games behind the Homestead Grays for the “league” title. The Baltimore Elite Giants also appeared as the Nashville Elite Giants during the season.

Before the start of the 1939 season, Baltimore named Felton Snow as the team's manager and George Scales was returned to the New York Black Yankees. Scales became the Black Yankees' manager upon returning to his old team. George inherited two problems when he took over as manager of the team. First he had no hitting. Goose Curry was the team's leading hitter with a .352 batting average, but the Black Yankees also had four players (Marvin Barker, Ralph Burgin, Bob Clark and Leroy "Flash" Miller) in their starting line-up that hit under .200 for the season. George played in nineteen (19) "league" games during the season and batted .294. The second problem that Scales faced was that his pitching staff was only marginal at best. Terris Mc Duffie was the ace of the staff with a 5-3 record and an aging Bill Holland was past his prime. The New York Black Yankees finished the 1939 Negro National League season in 6th place with a record of 15-21 (.417). Only the lowly New York Cubans with a record 5-22 (.185) had a worse season.



New York Black Yankees (1939)

Negro National League

(Scales – back row fourth from left)

In 1939 Scales was selected by Tom Wilson, Negro National League President, to manage the East squad in both East-West All Star games. The first game was played on August 6th in Comiskey Park (Chicago) before approximately 40,000 fans. The West squad prevailed by a score of 4-2. Game two was played on August 27th at Yankee Stadium (New York City) with only 20,000 fans on hand to witness the East team soundly beat the West by a score of 10-2.

Scales was traded back to the Baltimore Elite Giants by the New York Black Yankees before the 1940 Negro National League season got underway. The New York Black Yankees got Hoss Walker (shortstop) and Al Jackson (pitcher) in return for Scales. When George joined the Elite Giants, Felton Snow was still the team's manager and Tubby's role on the team was strictly as a player and coach. After two weeks of spring training in New Orleans, the team hit the road to play their way back up North. Even though Scales was 40 years of age, he played like he was still in his prime. George had an excellent season at the plate in 1940. The following are his hitting statistics for Negro National League games for the 1940 season.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1940	Baltimore	41	119	28	42	10	2	4	32	1	.353	.571

Other Baltimore hitters who had a good season at the plate in 1940 were Felton Snow (.372), Thomas "Pee Wee" Butts, Henry Kimbro (.284) and Roy Campanella (.280). The Elite Giants pitching staff included Emery "Ace" Adams (14-10), Lamb "Bud" Barbee (11-9), Willie Hubert (8-1) and Nate Moreland (8-6). The Baltimore Elite Giants finished the Negro National League season with a record of 54-30 (.643) in 2nd place behind the Homestead Grays (42-13).

Scales returned to the Baltimore Elite Giants for the 1941 season. His role on the team was that of a utility player. Scales was very productive in the twenty-seven (27) "league" games in which he appeared. George finished the season with a .303 batting average and a .485 slugging percentage. The Elite Giants fielded a strong team for the 1941 season. They were led by the hitting of Bill Hoskins (.412), Henry Spearman (.400) and Roy Campanella (.344). Bill Byrd was the ace of the Elite Giants' pitching staff. He led the league with a 15-5 (.750) record and had the lowest earned run average (1.97) in the Negro National League. Baltimore also got solid pitching from Roy Williams (6-3), Jonas Gaines (5-2) and Ace Adams (4-5). The Baltimore Elite Giants were crowned Negro National League champions at the end of the season. They compiled a 36-21 (.632) won-loss record for the 1941 season.

In 1942 George Scales was back with the Baltimore Elite Giants as a player-manager to help them defend their Negro National League title. All the Elite Giants hitters including Scales had a down year at the plate. George played in 44 "league" games during the season and saw his batting average drop to .254 and his slugging percentage went down to .352. Sammy Hughes (.309) and Roy Campanella (.306) were the team's two best hitters for the year. The Elite's key to success was Bill Byrd. He was the leading pitcher in the Negro National League for the second straight year. Byrd finished the season with a "league" leading 15-6 (.714) record and also led the Negro National League in strikeouts with 60. Behind the strong right arm of Bill Byrd, the Baltimore Elite Giants won the Negro National League championship for the second year in a row. They compiled a record of 37-15 (.712).



George Scales (Manager)
Baltimore Elite Giants

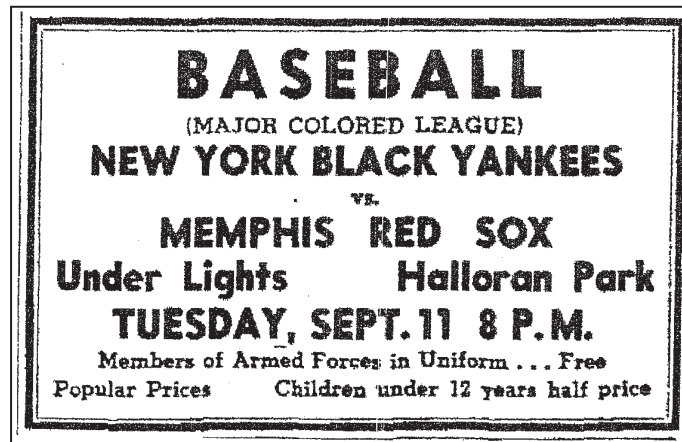
According to Negro League researcher John Holway, George Scales was the starting second baseman (he also played first base and third base) for the Elite Giants during the 1943 season. Holway's research shows that Scales hit .303 for the season when "league" and "non-league" statistics were combined. The highlight of Scale's 1943 season as a player was going 4 for 5 with a double, two homeruns and four runs batted in against the Homestead Grays on May 30th. George also replaced Felton Snow as the manager for the Baltimore Elite Giants during the 1943 season. The Baltimore Elite Giants struggled during the season and finished the year with a record of 17-26 (.395) which left them in 5th place in the Negro National League. They ended up 19 games behind the Homestead Grays. Bill Byrd was the team's leading hitter (.357) and ace of the pitching staff with a 9-6 record. Scales was named as a coach for the 1943 East-West All Star game. He also made the only East-West All Star game plate appearance of his career when he entered the game in the 6th inning as a pinch hitter for pitcher Johnny Wright.

Tom Wilson, owner of the Baltimore Elite Giants, named Felton Snow as the manager of the team for the 1944 season. Scales remained with the team as a player and coach. The team rebounded primarily due to the timely hitting of Bobby Robinson (.361), Roy Campanella (.350), Henry Kimbro (.329), Bill Hoskins (.316) and Thomas "Pee Wee" Butts (.300). At the age of 43 George only saw limited action in the field during the season. In the ten "league" games in which he appeared, he hit .345. The Elites pitching staff included Bill Byrd (8-7) Tom Glover (4-3), Andy "Pullman" Porter (3-1), Bill Harvey (3-2) and Joe Black (3-3). The Baltimore Elite Giants ended the season in 2nd place in the Negro National League. They had a record of 27-21 (.563)



Baltimore Elite Giants (1944)
Negro National League
(Scales – kneeling first on left)

Before the start of the 1945 baseball season, Scales was traded by Baltimore back to the New York Black Yankees for Harry Williams. Upon his return to the Black Yankees, George was named the team's manager. Unfortunately, he inherited a weak hitting team with no pitching. New York started slowly and had a won-loss record of 2-16 (.111) for the first half of the Negro National League season. They improved slightly and posted a 5-10 (.333) won-loss record for the second half of the season. The New York Black Yankees ended the 1945 Negro National League season in last place in the official league standings. They were 19 games behind the Negro National League champion Homestead Grays. Research seems to indicate that Bill Perkins also managed the Black Yankees during the 1945 season.



New York Black Yankees vs Memphis Red Sox

Lima, Ohio

09-09-45

In late March of 1946, Scales was traded back to Baltimore by New York for Harry Williams. George's role on the team was as a backup at first base, pinch hitter and coach. Scales appeared in ten (10) "league" games during the season and batted .263. The Baltimore Elite Giants as a team didn't fare much better. They finished the Negro National League season with a record of 28-31 (.475). The Newark Eagles won the Negro National League title with a record of 47-16 (.746).



George Scales

Baltimore Elite Giants (1946)

During the 1947 Negro National League season Wesley Barrow and George Scales managed the Baltimore Elite Giants. The team finished in third place in the "league" standings with a record of 40-36 (.526).

George Scales managed the Baltimore Elite Giants to a second place finish in the Negro National League in 1948. Baltimore had a final season won-loss record of 45-25 (.643). They ended the season just one game behind the Homestead Grays (41-19) for the Negro National League title.

From 1949 through the 1951 season, Scales was a coach and road secretary for the Baltimore Elite Giants. Baltimore played in the Negro American League because the Negro National League disbanded in 1948.

In 1952 George Scales signed to manage the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League. Under Scales the Black Barons played excellent "team" baseball. They had no real stars other than possibly Pepper Bassett, Henry Kimbro, "Big Ed" Steele or an aging Thomas "Pee Wee" Butts. Birmingham finished the 1952 Negro American League season in second place with a won-loss record of 51-36 (.586) just a half game behind the champion Indianapolis Clowns. This proved to be George Scales' last year in Negro League baseball in the United States.

Florida Hotel League

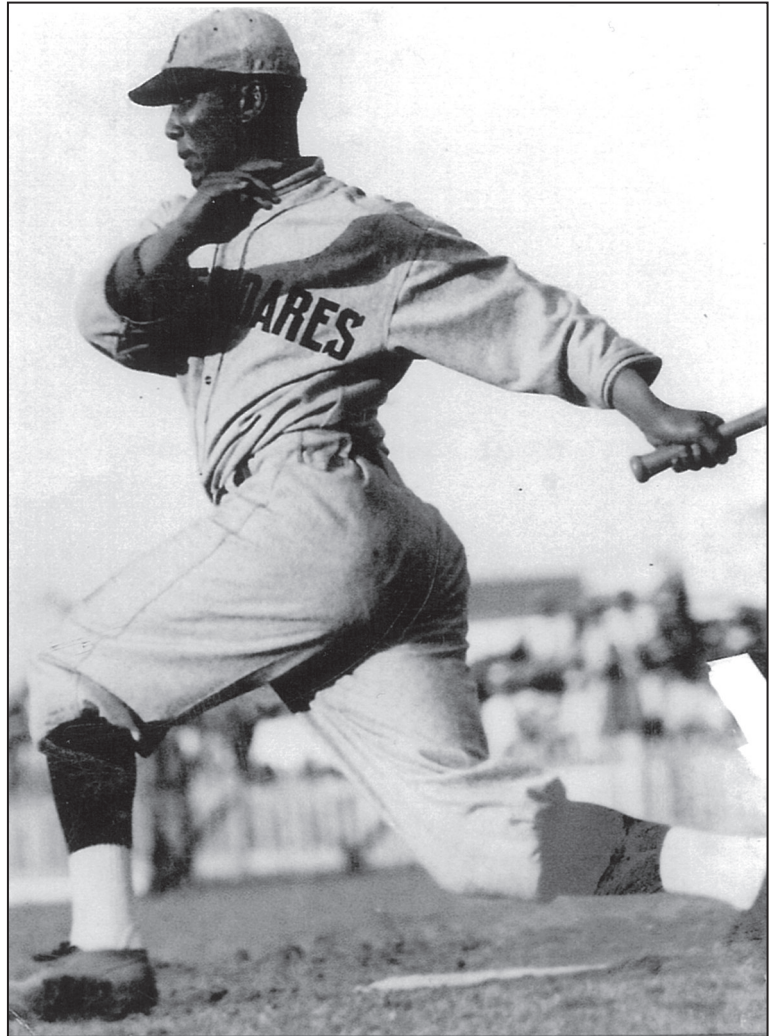
After the regular 1925 baseball season had concluded in the East, Scales joined Homestead Grays pitcher “Smoky” Joe Williams and went to Florida to play for the Royal Poinciana baseball team in the Florida Hotel League or Coconut League as it was also known. Records indicate that there were nine games played during the season and that the Royal Poinciana team won the league championship with a record of 7-2 (.778).

Cuban Winter League Career

After the 1927 Eastern Colored League season, Scales along with John Henry “Pop” Lloyd, Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle, Dick Lundy and Chaney White traveled to Cuba and play for the Almendares Alacranes for the 1927-28 Cuban Winter League. The Negro League players all had a good season in Cuba. Chaney White led the way with a .363 batting average. Pop Lloyd (.353), Oliver Marcelle (.336), Dick Lundy (.321) and George Scales (.282) also hit well, but the rest of the team struggled. While mired in last place in the league standings with a 17-23 (.425) record, Almendares withdrew from the league in late January of 1928 before the season was over.

Scales returned to play third base for Almendares for the 1928-29 Cuban Winter League season. George had another excellent season in Cuba and finished the season with a .321 batting average. The Alacranes finished the season in second place with a record of 31-21 (.596) behind the league leading Habana Leones (43-12). Both the Alacranes and Leones final season records are skewed because each team was credited with 12 victories when the Cienfuegos and Cuba teams dropped out of the league before the end of the season.

In 1929 George returned to Cuba for the third straight year to play winter baseball. Scales signed with the Habana Leones as their starting third baseman. Besides Scales the Leones also had Negro League players Jud Wilson (.363), Charles “Chino” Smith (.338) and Cliff Bell (9-8). Scales had a good season and finished the year with a .290 batting average. Habana, however, struggled as a team and finished the season in last place in the Cuban Winter League with a record of 20-30 (.400).



George Scales
Almendares Alacranes
1928-29

Dominican League

The 1937 baseball season in the Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo) was one of the most memorable baseball seasons in Latin American baseball history. The leader of the country, Rafael Trujillo, was an avid baseball supporter and as dictator of the country he had his own team in the Dominican League. Trujillo was determined to have his Ciudad Trujillo team win the league title. To accomplish this goal, he sent an emissary to the United States to sign the best Negro League players. Trujillo's agent signed Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, James "Cool Pappa" Bell and several other Negro League stars. These signings sparked the league's other two teams (Estrellas Orientales and Aguilas Cibaenas) to start signing Negro League players to their teams. By the time the season started each team had a virtual all star line-up of the best Negro and Latin players of the day. A complete roster of Negro League players playing in the Dominican Republic during the 1937 season is as follows:

Roster of Negro League Players in the Dominican Republic in 1937

Cuidad Trujillo	Aguilas Cibaenas	Estrellas Orientales
Herman Andrews	Santos Amaro	Carlos Blanco
Sam Bankhead	Chet Brewer	Ramon Bragana
James "Cool Pappa" Bell	Martin Dihigo	Ernest Carter
Peruchco Cepeda	Bert Hunter	Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia
Francisco "Cho Cho" Correa	Cando Lopez	Alejandro Oms
Rodolfo Fernandez	Clarence "Spoony" Palm	Julio Rojo
Silvio Garcia	Roy Parnell	George "Tubby" Scales
Josh Gibson	Pat Patterson	Juan "Tetelo" Vargas
Robert Griffith	Clyde Spearman	
Enrique Lantiqua	David Thomas	
Leroy Matlock	Luis Tiant, Sr.	
Satchel Paige		
Cy Perkins		
Lazaro Salazar		
Harry Williams		

Negro League players dominated play during the Dominican League season. Some of the top Dominican League hitters (who also played in the Negro Leagues) were: Josh Gibson (.453), Clyde Spearman (.352), Martin Dihigo (.351), Pat Patterson (.349), James "Cool Pappa" Bell (.318) and Sam Bankhead (.309). Satchel Paige was the Dominican League's leading pitcher during the season with a record of 8-2 (.800).

Scales signed to play for the Estrellas Orientales team. George had a good season and hit .295 for the year. The season was hotly contested. At the end of the year, the Ciudad Trujillo team narrowly won the league title with an 18-13 (.581) record. The Orientales team finished the year in last place with a record of 14-17 (.452).

Puerto Rican Winter League Career

George Scales made his first appearance in Puerto Rico in 1925 when he joined several other Negro League players from the Brooklyn Royal Giants and New York Lincoln Giants to travel to the island. The group sailed from New York to San Juan (PR) in the winter of 1925 to play a barnstorming baseball schedule around the island. The Negro Leaguers played in Puerto Rico as the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Some of the other Negro League players who went on the Puerto Rican tour were Jude Gans, Connie Rector, Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Louis Santop, Charles "Chino" Smith and Charles Spearman. Included as part of their Puerto Rican tour was a seventeen (17) games series with the Team Ponce. George and Chino Smith returned to the United States on March 8, 1926 aboard the S.S. Caracas.

Scales returned to Puerto Rico the next winter (1926-27) as a member of the New York Lincoln Giants. The Negro League team barnstormed all over the island playing All Borinquen, Guayama, Ponce, San Juan and other local teams. The Lincoln Giants feasted on Puerto Rican pitching. In a three game series versus All Borinquen, New York scored 52 runs in their three straight victories. The highlight of the New York Lincoln Giants tour was playing a series against the Ponce team that included Pancho Coimbre and Millito Navarro. George did not return to Puerto Rico for another twelve years.



Aguadilla Tiburones (1939-40)
(Scales – back row third from right)

In 1939 Scales returned to Puerto Rico, this time not as a player, but as the manager of the Aguadilla Tiburones (Sharks). Aguadilla entered the Puerto Rican Winter League at the start of the second half of the 1939-40 winter league season. Behind the play of Negro League players Leon Day, Johnny Hayes and Neil Robinson, Scales led the Tiburones to a 14-13 (.519) record in their first season in the league.

During the 1940-41 Puerto Rican Winter League season, Scales was signed by the Ponce Leones to take over the team from Pipo Maldonado. The Leones had a team that included the following Negro League players: Pancho Coimbre (.401), Anthony Cooper, Felle Delgado, Howard Easterling (.337), Cocaina Garcia, Silvio Garcia, Juan Guilbe (.312), Max Manning (4-3), Millito Navarro (.311), Javier “Blue” Perez (.432), Roy Welmaker and Harry Williams. Ponce had started the season slowly before team owners changed managers. Leones team owners charged George with only one task, get the Leones to win ball games. Scales responded to the challenge. Scales quickly settled into a starting line-up and during the second half of the season got Ponce back to playing competitive baseball. The Ponce Leones finished the second half of the season with a record of 7-7 (.500).

Scales would be an integral part of the Ponce team and manage them for the next ten seasons. With Scales at the helm, Ponce was the top team in the league. They won five championships in six seasons from 1941 to 1947. Four of these titles were in a row.

Ponce Leones Championship Seasons under George Scales

Year	Won-Lost Record	
1941-42	30-13	.698
1942-43	19-16	.543
1943-44	37-7	.840
1944-45	28-11	.718
1946-47	38-22	.633



Ponce Leones (1941-42)
 Puerto Rican Winter League
 (Scales – seated middle row third from left)

George's best team during this period was his 1943-44 Leones squad. The Ponce Leones were led by the hitting of Negro League stars Francisco "Pancho" Coimbre (.376), Juan Guilbe (.320) and Felix Guilbe (.292). The pitching staff was anchored by Rafaelito Ortiz (15-0), Tomas Quinonez (13-5) and Juan Guilbe (5-1). The team dominated their competition all season. Ponce won the first half of the season with a 20-4 (.833) record and the second half with a 17-3 (.850) record. They finished the 1943-44 winter league season with an unbelievable record of 37-7 (.840). At the end of the season they had won the Puerto Rican League Championship by a fifteen game margin over second place Santurce (22-22).

Some of the highlights of Scales' career with Ponce include:

- After the regular 1946-47 had concluded, Ponce (winners of the second half of the season) met Caguas (winners of the first half of the season) in a Serie Final Championship. Caguas won the first three games and had already started celebrating their "championship." But behind a confident George Scales, the Ponce Leones came back and won the next four games for the Puerto Rican Winter League Championship. This memorable comeback is the only time in league history that a team has won the title after being down three games to none.
- On February 15, 1947 Scales led the Ponce Leones to a 12-8 victory over the famed New York Yankees of the American League.
- Scales was named Manager of the Year in Puerto Rico on four different occasions (1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1946-47) during his career with the Ponce Leones.

After ten seasons and five championships with the Ponce Leones, George switched teams in 1950 and was signed by Pedrin Zorrilla to manage the Santurce Cangrejeros (Crabbers) for the 1950-51 winter league season. Zorrilla, owner of the Cangrejeros, was desperate to win a championship and was convinced that Scales was the right man for the job. The first thing that Scales did was sign a strong group of Negro League players to anchor his starting line-up. The following Negro

Leaguers played for Santurce during the 1950-51 Puerto Rican Winter League season.: Willard “Homerun” Brown, James “Buz” Clarkson, James “Junior” Gilliam, William Powell, John Ford Smith and Bob Thurman. Scales did not disappoint the team owner. He did what he did best and that was win ball games and championships. The Cangrejeros finished the regular season with a record of 48-30 (.615). Santurce won the City Championship by defeating San Juan eight games to seven. Then the Cangrejeros won the league regular season championship, defeated Ponce in the Semi-Finals Playoff Series four games to one and defeated Caguas four games to three in the Puerto Rican Winter League Playoff Series Finals.

Santurce’s league championship earned them a trip to the Caribbean World Series in Caracas, Venezuela. In the Caribbean World Series tournament they faced the league champions from Cuba (Habana Leones), Venezuela (Magallanes) and Panama (Spur Cola). Santurce was led by the hitting of Stan Beard (.423), Luis Olmo (.417) and Bob Thurman (.364). Jose “Pantalones” Santiago (2-0) and Reuben Gomez were the top pitchers for Santurce in the Caribbean World Series. At the end of the series, Santurce prevailed as the Caribbean World Series Champions with a 5-1 record for the tournament.

George Scales returned to Santurce for the 1951-52 season and brought the following Negro League players with him: Dan Bankhead, Willard Brown, James Clarkson, Eugene Collins, Johnny Davis, James “Junior” Gilliam and Bob Thurman. Santurce finished the season in third place only two games behind league champion San Juan. The Cangrejeros had a record of 41-31 (.569).

It would be six years before George would return to Puerto Rico to manage. On December 19, 1958 George Scales replaced Pancho Coimbre as the manager of the Ponce Leones. Scales managed the Leones during the 1958-59 and 1959-60 seasons.



George Scales
Ponce Leones

For all of his accomplishments as a manager in Puerto Rico, George “Tubby” Scales was elected to the Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Life After Baseball

The 1952 Negro American League season was Scales’ last full season in baseball in the United States. He did manage in Puerto Rico through the 1959-60 winter league season.

After his baseball career, George Scales was a stock broker. He passed away on April 15, 1976 in Compton (Los Angeles county), California.

Assessing George Scales' Career

- Even though Negro League researchers all have different seasonal and career batting averages for Scales, all agree that he was an outstanding hitter. The reason there are differences between each researcher's hitting statistics is that not all researchers have the same box scores and some researchers only count "league" games, while others use all the games he played in their totals. The following chart provides an analysis by four leading researchers of his seasonal batting averages during the prime years of his career.

Year	Larry Lester and Dick Clark	John Holway	James Riley	MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia
1922	.194	.403	.208	.208
1923	.408	.433	.429	.429
1924	.341	.343	.367	.367
1925	.348	.342	.361	.361
1926	.290	.173	.222	.222
1927	.446	.437	.446	.446
1928	.324	.277	.338	.338
1929	.390	.387	.387	.403
1930	.373	.316	.303	.294
1931	.333	.339	.393	.389
1932	.328	.292	-	.217
1933	.222	.375	-	.250
Career Batting Average	.315	.308	.313	.309

- According to research by the National Baseball Hall of Fame Study, John Holway, Larry Lester & Dick Clark and research published in the MacMillan Baseball Guide, George Scales had the following lifetime Negro League hitting statistics totals.

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Hall of Fame Study	-	2215	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.321	.508
Holway	-	2578	-	793	-	-	-	-	-	.308	-
Lester/Clark	718	2380	464	750	162	31	71	439	62	.315	.499
MacMillan	580	2032	-	627	129	27	66	-	38	.309	.496

- We probably have the majority of George's statistics for "league" games. Research has shown that he was one of the best hitters of his day against Negro League competition. He hit over .400 for two seasons in games against other Negro League teams (1923 - .408 w/ .772 slugging percentage and 1927 - .446 w/ .676 slugging percentage). In addition to his two .400+ seasons, he hit in the mid .300's or better for six additional Negro League seasons (1924 - .341, 1925 - .348, 1929 - .390, 1930 - .373, 1940 - .353 and 1944 - .345).
- George Scales also played hundreds of games against "non-league" opponents during his career. Only a limited number of box scores for these games have been found. For the fifty-one (51) "non-league" games that have been found, Scales had a .519 batting average with a .806 slugging percentage. Undoubtedly when more of these "non-league" games are found, Scales' total career batting average will be raised significantly. In short, we are still missing a large percentage of his career hitting statistics.
- The most detailed research of a Negro League team for which George Scales played was Phil Dixon's research of the 1931 Homestead Grays. Dixon found box scores for 174 games that the Grays played during their 1931 season. According to Dixon, George posted the following numbers for the 1931 season: over 200 base hits, 44 doubles, 20 homeruns and over 150 runs scored. During the season he had five hits in one game, four hits in seven games and three hits in eleven games.

Dixon's analysis of the 1931 Homestead Grays season does give us excellent insight into Scales' ability as a hitter. His performance during the 1931 season is most likely representative of the kind of numbers he put up on a regular basis, especially during the prime years of his career.

- It should also be taken into consideration that "Tubby" remained active as a player for 26 Negro League seasons (1920-1946).

During the early part of his career and into his prime (before he was 35 years old), he was one of the top hitters in Negro League baseball. Box scores have been found for 471 games that Scales played against "league" competition during this time frame. He collected 550 hits in 1648 at bats for a .334 batting average during these 471 games. This places George as one of the top hitters in Negro League baseball history.

After the age of 35 (time when many professional ball players had already retired), Scales appeared in 251 "league" games and had 210 hits in 746 at bats for a very respectable .282 batting average. George played until he was 46 years of age and still produced at the plate. Young or old, when he was called upon, he delivered and got the job done.

- Another factor that most likely impacted his overall career batting average was when he started managing in 1932. Playing and managing at the same time had to have impacted his effectiveness on the field as a player. From 1919 through the 1931 season, Scales had a career batting average of .345 against "league" teams. In his first six years as a manager (1932-1938), George's batting average dropped to .260 or an 85 point drop in production.
- It is hard to judge just how successful of a manager George Scales was in the Negro Leagues. We are missing or have yet been able to determine which games he actually managed during many of his Negro League career. During several seasons that he managed in the Negro Leagues, the team he managed had more than one manager during the season.

The vast majority of the games he managed were against "non-league" teams and with the exception of the 1932 New York Black Yankees most of these records are still missing. There are still hundreds of victories Scales had as a manager that are yet to be uncovered.

The 1932 New York Black Yankees' independent season should be a good indicator of George Scales' managerial abilities. According to newspaper accounts the Black Yankees had a season won-loss record of 148-27 (.846) for the 1932 season.

However, Scales' career managing in Puerto Rico is well documented. He was the most successful manager in Puerto Rican baseball history. George won more championships (six league titles) than any other manager and was elected the Manager of the Year in Puerto Rico four times (1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1946-47). George Scales posted a won-loss record in Puerto Rico of 414-276 (.600). In fifteen (15) seasons managing in the Puerto Rican Winter League he only had one losing season. George Scales was elected to the Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Fame as a manager.

From the records that we have, George Scales was a very successful manager. We have from documented primary sources 1175 games in which he was the manager. George's won-loss record for these games is an impressive 751-424 (.639).

- In conclusion, George "Tubby" Scales is truly a Forgotten Hero of Negro League baseball. He should be remembered as both a great player and great manager.

Playing, Coaching and Managing Career

Regular Season:

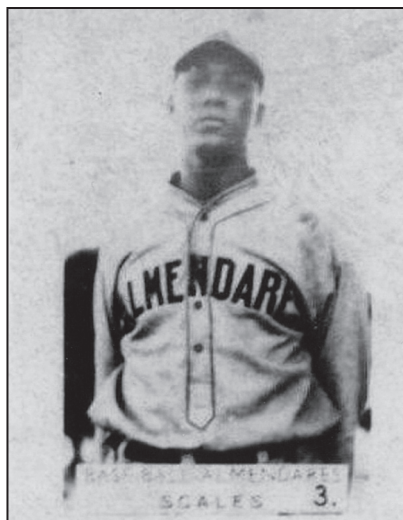
Year	Team	League
1919-1920	Montgomery Grey Sox	Negro Southern League
1921	Pittsburgh Keystones	Independent
1921	St. Louis Giants	Negro National League
1922-1923	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1923-1925	New York Lincoln Giants	Eastern Colored League
1925	Homestead Grays	Independent
1926	Newark Stars	Eastern Colored League
1926-1927	New York Lincoln Giants	Eastern Colored League
1927	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
1928	New York Lincoln Giants	Eastern Colored League
1928	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
1929	New York Lincoln Giants	American Negro League
1929	Homestead Grays	American Negro League
1929-1930	Homestead Grays	Independent
1931	Homestead Grays	Independent
1932	New York Black Yankees	East-West League (Associate Member)
1933-1934	New York Black Yankees	Independent
1934	New York Black Yankees	Negro National League (Associate Member)
1935	Homestead Grays	Negro National League
1936	New York Black Yankees	Negro National League
1937	Estrellas Orientales	Dominican League
1937	Trujillo All Stars	Independent
1938	Baltimore Elite Giants	Negro National League
1938	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro National League
1939	New York Black Yankees	Negro National League
1940	Philadelphia Stars	Negro National League
1940-1944	Baltimore Elite Giants	Negro National League
1945	New York Black Yankees	Negro National League
1946-1948	Baltimore Elite Giants	Negro National League
1949-1951	Baltimore Elite Giants (Coach)	Negro American League
1952	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League



New York Black Yankees (1934)

Winter Leagues:

1921	St. Louis Giants	Exhibition Series vs St. Louis Cardinals
1921	St. Louis Giants	Series vs Major League All Stars
1925	Royal Poinciana	Florida Hotel League (Coconut League)
1925-26	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Puerto Rican Barnstorming Tour
1926-27	New York Lincoln Giants	Puerto Rican Barnstorming Tour
1927	New York Lincoln Giants	Game vs Trenton All Stars w/ Babe Ruth
1927-28	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1928	New York Lincoln Giants	Colored Championship Series vs Homestead Grays
1928-29	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1929	Homestead Grays	Colored Championship Series vs Chicago American Giants
1929-30	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1930	Homestead Grays	Colored Championship Series vs New York Lincoln Giants
1930	Homestead Grays	Game vs International League All Stars
1930	Chicago American Giants	Game vs Major League All Stars
1931	Homestead Grays	Colored Championship Series vs Kansas City Monarchs
1931	Baltimore Black Sox	Series vs Major League All Stars
1933	New York Black Yankees	Spring Training & Exhibition Games in Puerto Rico
1934	New York Black Yankees	Game vs Brooklyn Bushwicks w/ Dizzy Dean
1934	New York Black Yankees	Series vs Major League All Stars
1937	Negro All Stars (Trujillo All Stars)	Denver Post Tournament
1937	Trujillo All Stars	Game vs National League All Stars
1939-40	Aguadilla Tiburones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1940-41	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1941-42	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1942-43	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1943-44	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1944-45	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1945-46	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1946-47	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1947	Ponce Leones	Exhibition Game vs New York Yankees
1947-48	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1948-49	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1949-50	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1950-51	Santurce Cangrejeros	Puerto Rican Winter League
1951	Santurce Cangrejeros	Caribbean World Series III
1951-52	Santurce Cangrejeros	Puerto Rican Winter League
1958-59	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1959-60	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League



George "Tubby" Scales
Almendares Alacranes

Mallorquina Baseball Card (Cuba)
1927-28

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	Montgomery	8	34	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	.088	.088
1921	St. Louis	19	72	5	19	3	1	0	12	0	.264	.333
1922	St. Louis	23	72	11	14	7	0	1	16	1	.194	.333
1923	St. Louis	59	184	47	75	12	8	13	56	7	.408	.772
	New York											
1924	New York	51	185	33	63	11	1	4	33	8	.341	.476
1925	New York	32	112	24	39	9	0	5	28	3	.348	.563
1926	Newark	28	100	19	29	3	2	4	20	2	.290	.480
	New York											
1927	New York	23	74	20	33	9	1	2	20	2	.446	.676
1928	New York	44	153	31	55	18	3	7	25	13	.359	.654
1929	New York	47	172	45	67	18	1	7	29	7	.390	.628
	Homestead											
1930	Homestead	36	134	32	50	10	3	3	16	1	.373	.560
1931	Homestead	37	138	27	46	9	4	5	20	2	.333	.565
1932	New York	16	61	13	20	6	0	2	9	1	.328	.525
1933	New York	5	18	1	4	1	0	0	2	0	.222	.278
1934	New York	14	44	3	9	3	0	0	2	1	.205	.273
1935	Homestead	29	95	22	24	6	1	3	11	1	.253	.432
1936	New York	22	84	14	24	3	1	5	18	2	.286	.524
1938	Baltimore	28	87	18	20	1	0	0	3	2	.230	.241
1939	New York	19	51	7	15	4	0	1	8	0	.294	.431
1940	Baltimore	41	119	28	42	10	2	4	32	1	.353	.571
1941	Baltimore	27	66	13	20	6	0	2	20	0	.303	.485
1942	Baltimore	44	142	20	36	8	0	2	27	1	.254	.352
1943	Baltimore	36	105	23	29	7	2	3	23	4	.276	

Career Statistics – Hitting (East-West All Star Game)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1942	East	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000

Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Series vs Major League Teams)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	St. Louis	-	21	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-
1931	Baltimore	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.333	.333
	Total	-	24	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Florida Hotel League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1925	Poinciana	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	.500	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Dominican League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1937	Estrellas	11	44	7	13	2	0	0	1	-	.295	.341

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuban Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927-28	Almendares	-	117	23	33	2	4	1	-	1	.282	.393
1928-29	Almendares	-	134	27	43	5	4	2	-	2	.321	.463
1929-30	Habana	-	124	17	36	5	0	0	-	-	.290	.331
	Totals	-	375	67	112	12	8	3	-	3	.299	.397

Career Statistics – Hitting (Puerto Rican Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1941-42	Ponce	-	15	3	5	2	0	2	7	-	.333	.867
1944-45	Ponce	-	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	.125	.125
1945-46	Ponce	-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	.000	.000
	Totals	-	25	4	6	2	0	2	7	-	.240	.560

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro Leagues	722	2394	467								

Managerial Record

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	%	Place
1932	New York Black Yankees	Independent	148	27	.846	-
1933	New York Black Yankees	Independent	-	-	-	-
1934	New York Black Yankees	NNL	2	10	.167	-
1934	New York Black Yankees	Independent	-	-	-	-
1934	New York Black Yankees	Exhibition	1	0	1.000	-
1938	Baltimore Elite Giants	NNL	23	9	.719	2 nd
1939	New York Black Yankees	NNL	15	21	.417	5 th
1939	East	East West All Star Game	1	1	.500	-
1942	Baltimore Elite Giants	NNL	37	15	.712	2 nd
1943	Baltimore Elite Giants	NNL	-	-	-	-
1944	New York Black Yankees	IND	14	4	.778	-
1944	New York Black Yankees	NNL	-	-	-	-
1945	New York Black Yankees	NNL	-	-	-	-
1947	Baltimore Elite Giants	NNL	-	-	-	-
1948	Baltimore Elite Giants	NNL	45	25	.643	2 nd
1952	Birmingham Black Barons	NAL	51	36	.586	2 nd
Totals			337	148	.695	-

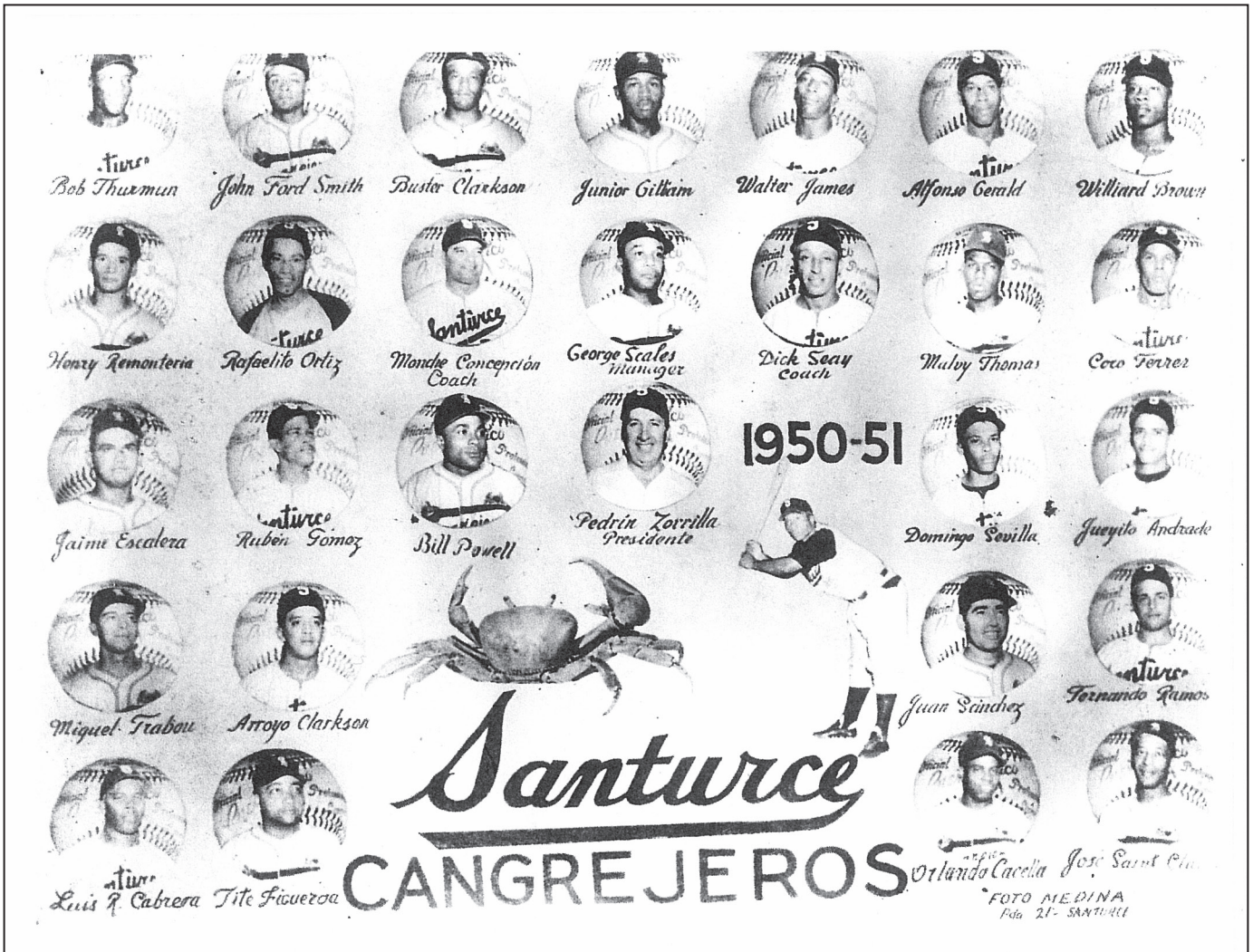
Winter League:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	%	Place
1939-40	Aguadilla Sharks	Puerto Rican League	14	13	.519	4 th
1940-41	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	-	-	-	-
1941-42	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	30	13	.698	1 st
1942-43	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	19	16	.543	1 st
1942-43	Ponce Leones	Serie Final vs Santurce	4	1	.800	-
1943-44	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	37	7	.840	1 st
1944-45	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	28	11	.718	1 st
1945-46	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	21	20	.512	3 rd
1946-47	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	38	22	.633	1 st
1946-47	Ponce Leones	Serie Final vs Caguas	4	3	.571	-
1947	Ponce Leones	Exhibition	1	0	1.000	-
1947-48	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	24	36	.407	6 th
1948-49	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	47	33	.587	2 nd
1949-50	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League	45	35	.562	3 rd
1950-51	Santurce	Puerto Rican League	48	30	.615	1 st
1950-51	Santurce	Semi-Finals vs Ponce	4	1	.800	-
1950-51	Santurce	Serie Final vs Caguas	4	3	.571	-
1951	Santurce	Caribbean World Series	5	1	.833	1 st
1951-52	Santurce	Puerto Rican League	41	31	.569	3 rd
1958-59	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League				

Selected Career Highlights

- Compiled a Negro League career batting average of .317 with a .505 slugging percentage.
- Compiled an overall career batting average of .328 in play at all levels of competition.
- Hit over .400 for two seasons in games against other Negro League teams.
(1923 - .408 w/ .772 slugging percentage and 1927 - .446 w/ .676 slugging percentage).
- In addition to his two .400+ seasons, batted in the mid .300's or better for six additional Negro League seasons (1924 - .341, 1925 - .348, 1929 - .390, 1930 - .373, 1940 - .353 and 1944 - .345).
- Member of the Homestead Grays team that won the 1930 and 1931 "Colored Baseball Championship." Scales hit .400 in the 1930 Series and .355 in the 1931 Series.
- In 1932 he managed the New York Black Yankees to a remarkable 148-27 (.846) record in their inaugural season. This was also his first year as a manager.
- Member of the Negro All Stars (Trujillo All Stars) team that won the Denver Post Tournament in 1937.
- Managed the Baltimore Elite Giants to a second place finish in 1939 in the Negro National League.
- Managed the East squad in both East-West All Star games in 1939. Lost game one by a score of 4-2 and won game two by score of 10-2.
- Member of the Baltimore Elite Giants team that won the Negro National League title in 1941 and 1942.
- Scales managed the 1942 Baltimore Elite Giants team to a Negro National League championship with a record of 37-15 (.712).
- Selected to the East-West All Star game at Comiskey Park in 1943.
- Managed six (6) Puerto Rican Winter League teams to league championship titles: Ponce (1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1946-47) and Santurce (1950-51). Four of these titles were back to back from 1941 to 1945. Scales' six titles are still the most by any one manager in Puerto Rican baseball history.
- Managed numerous Puerto Rican Winter League All Star teams.
- Compiled an unbelievable record of 37-7 (.840) while managing the Ponce Leones to a Puerto Rican Winter League title during the 1943-44 season.
- Selected Manager of the Year in Puerto Rico four times (1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1946-47).
- Managed the Santurce Crabbers (Puerto Rican Winter League) to a Caribbean World Series title in 1951.
- Elected to the Puerto Rican Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Scales in Puerto Rico



Santurce Cangrejeros (1950-1951) Puerto Rican League Champions

The 1950-51 Santurce Cangrejeros team included fourteen (14) Negro League and former Negro League players on their roster.

(top row - **Bob Thurman**, John Ford Smith, James "Buster" Clarkson, **James "Junior" Gilliam**, Alfonso Gerard and **Willard "Homerun" Brown**. second row – Rafaelito Ortiz, Ramon "Monchile" Concepcion, **George "Tubby" Scales**, **Dick Seay** and Coco Ferrer. third row – Bill Powell. bottom row – Luis Cabrera and Jose Antonio "Tite" Figueroa.)