

Forgotten Heroes:

Ed Bolden



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

and

Luis Munoz

Hilldale – The Early Years

Ed Bolden first became associated with the Hilldale baseball team in 1910 which was their first year in existence. In the beginning the Hilldale squad was a youth team playing sandlot ball. By 1912 Bolden had begun to transform the team into a strong squad with older players who could compete with the best men's teams in the Philadelphia area.



Hilldale (1912)
(**Bolden** – standing fifth from the right)

Edward W. Bolden was one of the true pioneers in the history of black baseball in America. Over the course of his career he owned both the Hilldale Club (1910-1929) and the Philadelphia Stars (1933-1950). In the early 1920's he took the Hilldale Club from a youth sandlot team to the premier black professional baseball team in the East. He also is credited with founding the Eastern Colored League (ECL) in 1922 and was instrumental in the formation of the American Negro League (ANL) in 1929.

Bolden served as the Chairman of the Eastern Colored League from 1923 through the 1926 season and was elected as the Eastern Colored League's President in 1928. Ed Bolden was also the President of the American Negro League in its only year in existence and President of the Negro National League in 1936. In addition he served as the Vice President of the Negro National League from 1939 through the 1944 season.

Ed Bolden was born on January 17, 1881 in Concordville, Pennsylvania which is located about 20 miles west of Philadelphia. In 1904 he went to work at the Central Post Office in Philadelphia. Prior to going to work at the post office he had worked as a butler for three years. When he retired from United States Post Office in 1946, he had worked for them for 42 years. During the time in which he lived, his job at the United States Post Office was a prestigious position for an African American.

He was characterized as a quiet, polite, often shy and an unassuming individual who always presented himself as a gentleman. However, he was also very ambitious and was known as an incredibly hard worker. Bolden had the reputation of working behind the scenes instead of putting himself in the spotlight. At the United States Post Office he was known for his efficiency and an impressive work record.

As a baseball team owner and league official, he was an exceptional marketer, skilled businessman and great scout of baseball talent.

Early Baseball Career

Bolden's career in baseball began in early 1910 when he was asked to umpire a game for the Hilldale A.C. He turned down the request but agreed to keep score during the game. The Hilldale A.C. was organized before the start of the 1910 baseball season when 19 year old Austin Thompson put an ad in the Philadelphia Sunday Item soliciting games for his newly organized amateur baseball club. The team played out of Darby, Pennsylvania which is located about five miles southwest of Philadelphia. According to census records in 1910 the population of Darby Borough was 6,305 with 676 African Americans composing 10.7 per cent of the population.

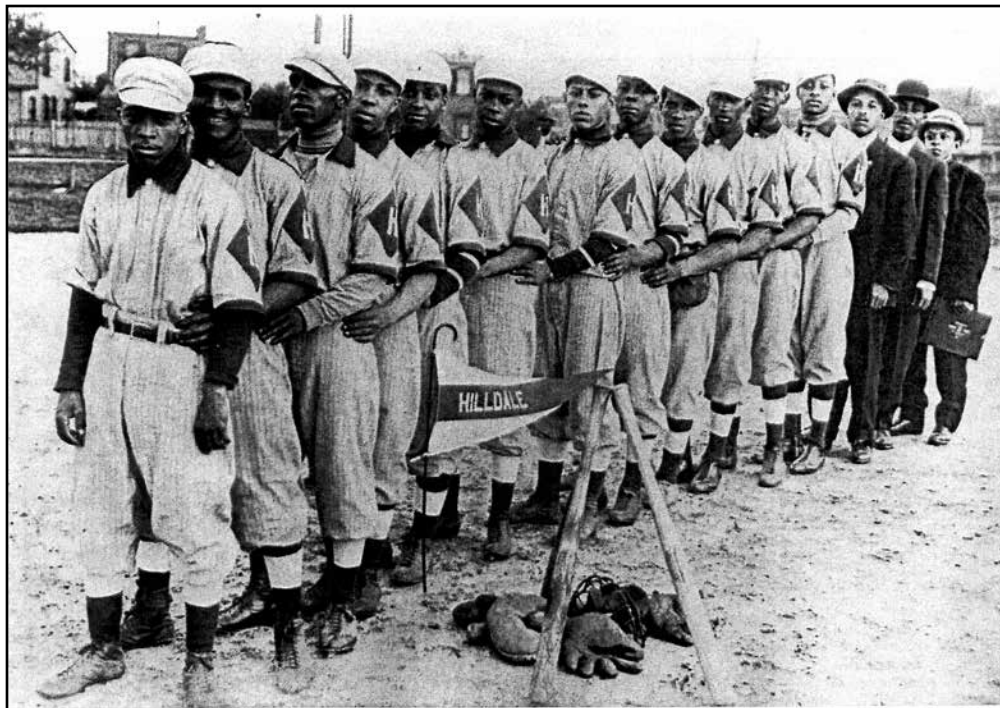
The first team fielded by the Hilldale A.C. was comprised of teenagers between the ages of 14 to 17. After scoring the game Ed Bolden was so impressed with the team that he offered to purchase equipment for them to show his support of their efforts. Before the end of the season Hilldale team members Lloyd Thompson (brother of Austin Thompson) and George Kemp asked Bolden to become their manager. To the players of Hilldale A.C. Bolden was mature and could provide them the leadership they needed to become a top flight ball club. Ed Bolden accepted the offer and would go on to transfer their youth sandlot team to an independent travelling team who would ultimately become the number one African American baseball team in the East.

Under the leadership of Ed Bolden, the Hilldale A.C. fielded a very strong team that dominated their competition during the 1911 season. During the early years (1910-1912) of Hilldale there were approximately 20 other black teams playing ball in the Philadelphia area. These teams played each other but also faced off against "white" teams on a regular basis. Playing solid team baseball, Hilldale finished the 1911 season with an impressive record of 23-6 (.793).



Hilldale (1911)
(**Bolden** – standing fourth from left)

Determined to take his team to the next level, Bolden started the 1912 season by bombarding the Philadelphia Tribune with a series of press releases to promote his club. Bolden's promotion focused on Hilldale being a top team, the qualities of their ball park (vacant lot on 10th Street) and the fact that Hilldale always offered a good guarantee for teams that booked a game with them. Other top teams that played in Philadelphia during the early years of the Hilldale A.C. included: Anchor Giants, Ardmore Tigers, Ideal Travelers, Morton Republican Club and Norristown.



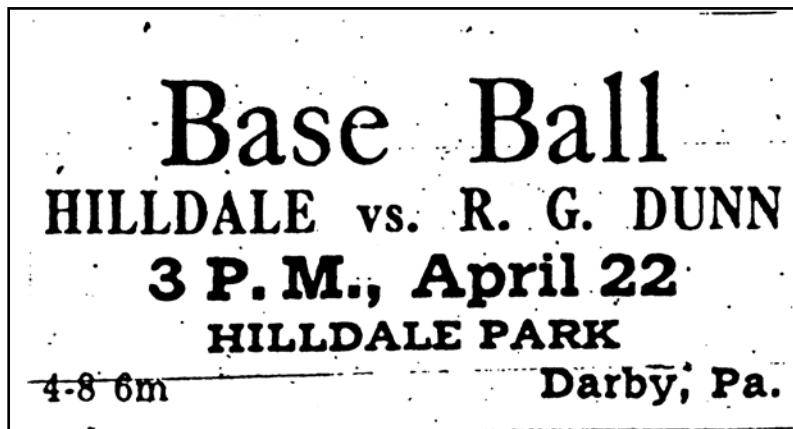
Hilldale (1913)
(**Bolden** - standing first on right)

Bolden continued to improve his team in 1913 and by the start of the 1914 season he had acquired the rights for Hilldale to play their home games at Hilldale Park. This gave him a first class facility to attract top quality teams (especially white teams) and a location at which to build a loyal fan base. According to the media, Hilldale had a good season both on the field of play and at the box office. Hilldale finished the 1914 season with a profit of \$ 219.49 when gate receipts, donations and concessions were all added together.

Hilldale had another excellent season in 1915. They finished the year with a record of 20-8-2 (.714) and a profit of \$ 569.63.

On January 15, 1916 Ed Bolden called a meeting at his home located at 306 Marks Street in Darby to announce his plans for making Hilldale one of the top independent black teams in the East. Attending the meeting were the “old fellows” of the Hilldale Board of Directors. Besides Bolden, these members included William Anderson, Charles Freeman, Thomas Jenkins, George Kemp, George Mayo and Lloyd Thompson. Most of these individuals would remain active until the demise of the original corporation in 1930. The key elements of Bolden’s three year plan for the Hilldale Club were as follows:

1. Sign top level ball players. (From the very beginning of his career, Ed Bolden had no problem with signing top players away from other teams. He also regularly held open tryouts to evaluate local talent.)
2. Secure the permanent rights to play home games at Hilldale Park (also referred to as Darby Park) in Darby and make substantial improvements to the facility. On February 27th Bolden announced a five year plan to renovate Hilldale Park. The first thing Bolden did was to commit to the construction of a new grandstand at a cost of \$ 104. His long term plan also called for an expansion of the grandstand and the construction of a roof over the seating area. Ed Bolden was quoted in the media that he was going to make Hilldale Park “one of the best and most comfortable accommodations available.”
3. Controlling Hilldale Park also gave Ed Bolden the opportunity to earn additional income by leasing out the park when his team wasn’t playing and selling advertising at the stadium.)
4. Set a fixed admission to the ball park of 25 cents per person.
5. Build a local fan base that would focus on attracting black middle class spectators.
6. Implement a marketing plan that would spread the Hilldale brand of baseball to other regions of the country through a barnstorming schedule. One of the focal points in Bolden’s marketing plan was placing ads in the local newspapers to promote an upcoming game.



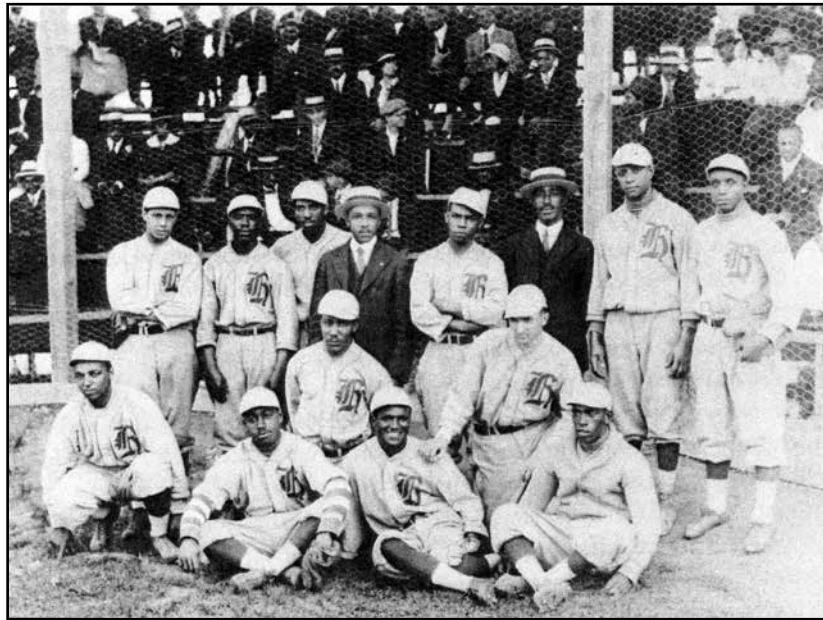
Hilldale's
First Newspaper Ad

Philadelphia Tribune
04-15-16

Hilldale
Vs
R.G. Dunn
(Main Line League)

7. Put a team on the field that stood for playing “clean baseball.”
8. Implement a code of mandatory rules for the ball players. Some of these players’ rules were as follows:
 - Required attendance at twice a week practice sessions.
 - Pregame workouts.
 - Regular weekly team meetings during the off season.
 - Banning the use of alcohol by players.
 - Immediate dismissal for insubordination.
9. Purchase new uniforms for the players.
10. Institute a profit sharing plan for the players. (After the 1916 season the players were so grateful with how Ed Bolden treated them that they bought him a \$ 100 ring with part of their share of the profits.)

Hilldale finished the 1916 season with a record of 19-9-2 (.679).



Hilldale (1916)

(First row left to right- **Lloyd Thompson**, Fred Pinder, unknown and unknown. Middle Row left to right – unknown and Doug Sheffey. Back row left to right – unknown, unknown, George Mayo, **Ed Bolden**, unknown, Bill Anderson, Mark Studevan and unknown.

Hilldale Joins the Ranks of the Professionals

During the winter of 1916, Ed Bolden put together an investment of \$ 10,000 to help him incorporate the team and put Hilldale on the road to becoming a professional ball club. On January 17, 1917 the Hilldale Baseball and Exhibition Company received its incorporation papers. This was the first step in his plan for transforming his team into a “true” professional baseball club. The next step for Hilldale was to sign their first professional player and that honor went to outfielder Otto Briggs. Otto had begun his professional career with C.I. Taylor’s West Baden Sprudels in 1915 and he would remain an integral part of the Hilldale franchise from 1917 to 1930. The signing of Briggs occurred on March 17th. Other professional players that were signed during the 1917 season were Frank “Doc” Sykes (P), McKinley “Bunny” Downs (Infield), Spottswood Poles (OF) and Bill Pettus (1B). To pay for the signing of professional players, Ed Bolden raised the admission prices at Hilldale Park by a nickel a ticket beginning in August of 1917.

Besides playing in the outfield, Otto Briggs also served as the manager for the 1917 Hilldale squad. Box scores have been found for nine games for Hilldale in 1917. Leading the way in hitting for the team were Bill Pettus (.450), Bunny Downs (.421), Doc Sykes (.400) and Otto Briggs (.313). Doc Sykes was the ace of the pitching staff. Also pitching for Hilldale were Shang Johnson and John Ford.

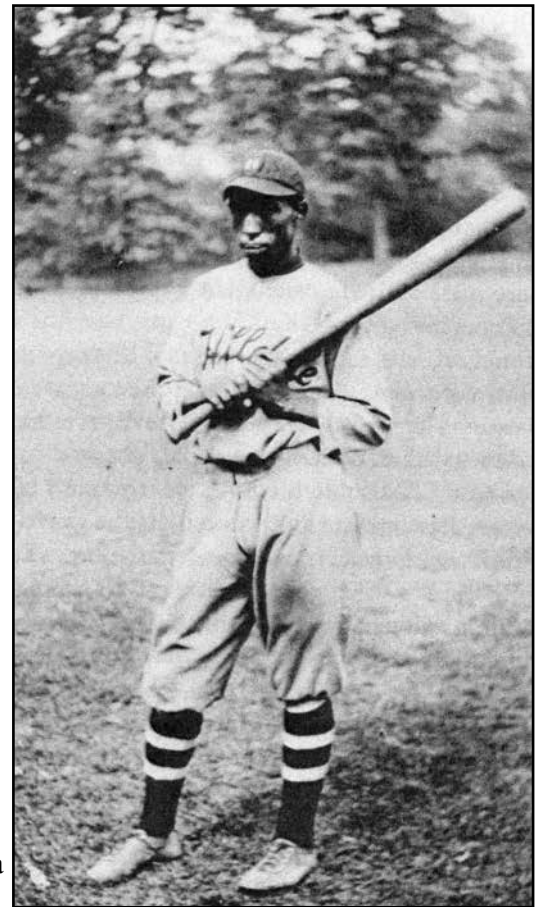
Bolden's plans for his team stressed increased marketing efforts, building stronger community relationships and a greater emphasis on playing "clean baseball." Like he had done in the past Bolden continually bombarded the media with press releases and got his team into the newspaper every chance he got. He also put up game posters, mailed out postcards to fans and regularly placed ads in the Philadelphia Tribune promoting Hilldale games. Bolden's best marketing strategy, however, was very simple - winning ball games. Bolden also felt very strongly about not just booking games against other black teams but also booking games with white teams. Playing white clubs would prove to be financially very successful for Bolden over the years.

In order to build community relations, Ed Bolden participated in several black fraternal organizations in the greater Philadelphia area. The Elks, Masons (Bolden was a 32nd degree Mason), Shriners and the Citizens Republican Club were some of the organizations in which he participated. Bolden also believed in contributing generously to black causes and booking games for charity events.

The concept of "clean baseball" which focused on the deportment and gentlemanly behavior of both the players and fans was a trademark of Bolden baseball his entire career. On March 10, 1917 the Philadelphia Tribune reported that Ed Bolden had hired Thomas Mackens, a local police officer, to provide uniformed security at the ball park. More officers were added as the season progressed. In addition Darby and Yeardon uniformed officers were in attendance to provide additional security for holiday games and other "big" games. Ed Bolden accomplished all of this while still holding down a full-time job at the Central United States Post Office in Philadelphia.

Most of Hilldale's games during the 1917 season were played on the weekends, so this left Bolden's players with the opportunity to also play for other teams during the season. During the season Hilldale's schedule included many of the top teams in the East. Some of these teams were the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars, Lincoln Giants and Norristown.

At the end of the 1917 season Hilldale played a three game exhibition series against the "All Americans" who were an all-star team of Major Leaguers. Bolden signed Dick Lundy (SS), Louis Santop (C) and Smokey Joe Williams (P) to bolster his team's roster for the series. Bullet Joe Bush (P) and Wally Schang (C) led the Major Leaguers. Smokey Joe Williams pitched Hilldale to a 6-2 victory in the first game of the series. The "All Americans" came back to win games two and three by the scores of 11-5 and 10-4. Not only was it prestigious for Hilldale to play against a Major League all-star squad, but the series against the All Americans was extremely profitable. According to Hilldale's financial ledger book the team brought in \$ 1,966.39 for the October 6th



Otto Briggs
Hilldale
Player-Manager



Hilldale (1917)

(Bolden – kneeling in front of team)

game, \$ 1,560.69 for the October 13th game and \$ 1,397.17 for the October 20th game for a grand total of \$ 4,924.45 for the three game series.

Bolden's decision to have his team turn professional worked out extremely well. Hilldale finished the 1917 season with a very respectable record of 23-15-1 (.605). In addition the team was financially profitable. After all the bills were paid for the season, Hilldale recorded a profit of \$ 2,915 for their regular season games. This was nearly three times as much profit as the team had made in the previous three seasons combined.

Ed Bolden's success with Hilldale did not go unnoticed with fellow professional team owners and booking agents. Nat Strong who controlled baseball in the East showed strong interest for bringing the Hilldale team and Hilldale Park under the control of his sports promotion and booking agency that was based in New York City. When Ed Bolden rebuffed Strong's offer, Nat threatened to put in a team right across the street from Hilldale and drive Bolden out of business. Bolden's response to Nat Strong's pressure was to publish the following ad in the Philadelphia Tribune to state his case and gain public support for his Hilldale team:

“The race people of Philadelphia and vicinity are proud to proclaim Hilldale the biggest thing in the baseball world, fostered and controlled by race men. We are proud to be in a position to give Darby citizens the most beautiful park in Delaware County, a team that is second to none and playing the best attractions available. To affiliate ourselves with other than race men would be a mark against our name that could never be eradicated.”

The way Bolden handled what could have become a public relations nightmare defused Strong's advances and set the stage for Hilldale becoming a dominant force in black baseball in the East.



Hilldale (1917)

(**Otto Briggs** – standing second from right and **Ed Bolden** – standing fourth from right)

By the start of the 1918 season the last of the original Hilldale players were gone from the roster but several former players like Charlie Freeman, Thomas Jenkins, George Kemp and Lloyd Thompson all became Hilldale Baseball and Exhibition Company corporate members.

Before the start of the 1918 season, Bolden added three new key players to his roster. They were George Johnson (outfield), Louis Santop (C) and Phil Cockrell (pitcher). Johnson and Santop brought outstanding hitting to the line-up and drove in runs. Cockrell would be the back bone of the pitching staff for Hilldale for much of the next 14 years. During his career with Hilldale, Cockrell pitched six no-hitters. His no-hit opponents were the All-Nationals of New York (1919), Detroit Stars (1921), Chicago American Giants (1922), Paterson Silk Sox (1922), South Phillies (1923) and Cape May (1930).

Hilldale had an excellent hitting team in 1918. They were led by Bill Pettus (.452), Louis Santop (.442), George Johnson (.417), Dick Lundy (.350), Bunny Downs (.325) and Pearl Webster (.324). Pettus and Santop were generally considered the two best hitters in black baseball during the 1918 season. Phil Cockrell was the ace of the pitching staff that also included Doc Sykes, Shang Johnson and Tom Williams.

During the 1918 season Ed Bolden, Bunny Downs and Frank Sykes all were listed as having managed the team during the season.

To increase fan attendance at Hilldale Park, Ed Bolden worked out a deal with the P.R.T. Company to provide trolley service on their Walnut route directly to Hilldale Park. In addition the trolley service agreed to provide extra cars between the hours of 1:15 PM and 6:15 PM on game days.

From opening day of the 1918 season, Hilldale dominated all their opponents. They ended their second season as a professional team with a remarkable won-loss record of 41-7 (.854) and an impressive profit of \$ 3,638.24.

By the end of the 1918 season Hilldale was considered one of the two best teams in the East. Some historians list the Grand Central Red Caps of New York City as the top team. From this researcher's perspective it may be unfair to rank them over Hilldale because only a very small number of box scores have been found for the Red Caps and we don't have a clear indication as to how good they really were during the 1918 season. Some of the other top teams in the East in 1918 were the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars, New York Lincoln Giants and the Pennsylvania Red Caps. The West was dominated by Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants with C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABC's right behind them.



Hilldale (1919)

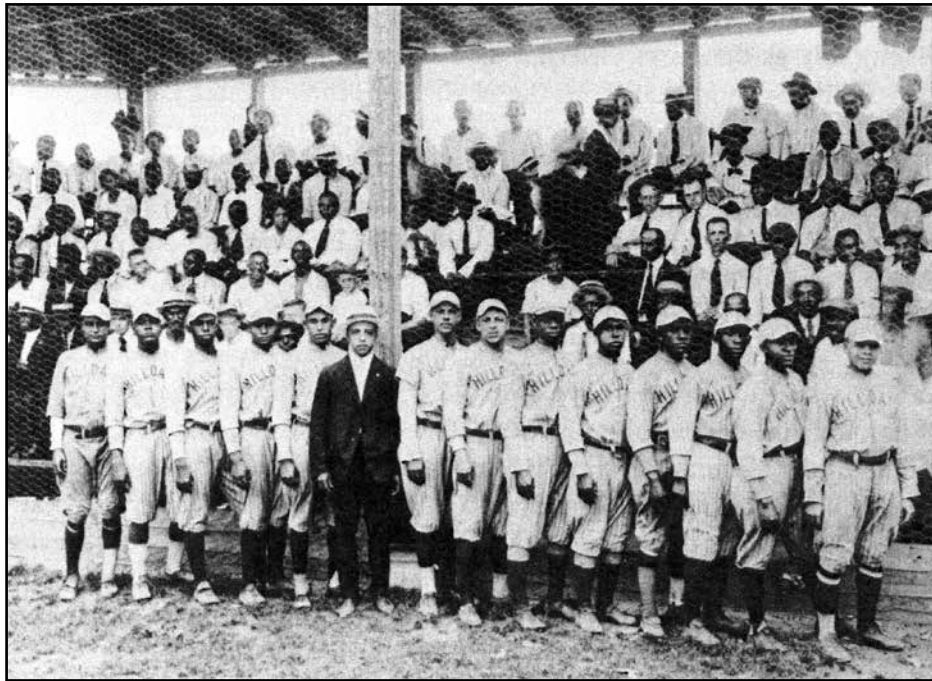
(Standing left to right – **Dick Lundy**, Willis “Pud” Flournoy, George Johnson, **Ed Bolden**, Tom Williams and James “Yank” Deas. Middle Row left to right – Jim York, Toussaint “Tom” Allen, Chick Meade and Otis Stars. Seated – left to right – Elihu Roberts, unknown, Bunny Downs and **Phil Cockrell**.)

Ed Bolden improved on an already strong team with the addition of Toussaint “Tom” Allen (1B), Yank Deas (C), Willis “Pud” Flournoy (P), Otis Stars (P) and Spottswood Poles (OF) for the 1919 season. Hilldale was led during the 1919 season by the hitting of Dick Lundy (.348), George Johnson (.328), Tom Allen (.283) and John Reese (.281).

Tom Williams (7-4) and Phil Cockrell (4-4) were the team's two best pitchers during the season. Otis Starks and Willis "Pud" Flournoy rounded out the starting rotation for Hilldale in 1919.

Both Otto Briggs and Bunny Downs managed Hilldale during the 1919 season.

In August of 1919 Hilldale made its first trip west when they traveled to Chicago and Detroit to play the powerful Chicago American Giants (27-16) and the newly formed Detroit Stars (27-14). After the regular season Hilldale played a two game exhibition series against the "All Americans." Herb Pennock beat Otis Starks in the first game by a score of 6 to 1. In the second game Bob Shawkey (All Americans) and Phil Cockrell (Hilldale) battled to a 0-0 tie.



Hilldale (1919)

(Standing left to right – Jim York, Willis" Pud" Flournoy, **Dick Lundy**, Toussaint "Tom" Allen, George Johnson, **Ed Bolden**, Tom Williams, Chick Meade, Phil Cockrell, James "Yank" Deas, Otis "Lefty" Starks, John Reese, Elihu Roberts and McKinley "Bunny" Downs.)

Before the start of the 1920 baseball season, Ed Bolden rented a ball park in Camden, New Jersey which was right across river from Philadelphia. This gave Ed the opportunity to expand his base of operations and play baseball games on Sunday which were prohibited in Pennsylvania by the state's blue laws.

Prior to the start of the 1920 season Ed Bolden signed Bill Francis (3B) and Dick Whitworth (P) away from Foster's American Giants. In addition Bolden also almost signed Oscar Charleston who was the back bone of Rube Foster's offense. This began a feud between Bolden and Foster that would never be totally resolved. In retaliation to Bolden's raiding his roster, Rube Foster lent his financial support to the newly organized Madison Stars who were becoming a rival of Hilldale in the Philadelphia area. Foster was also rumored to have assisted the Madison Park Company in building their new ball park.

During the 1920 baseball season, there was no normal league in the East. The top teams in the East during the 1920 baseball season were the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Baltimore Black Sox, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars, Hilldale and the New York Lincoln Giants. Besides

playing the top black teams in the East, Bolden also scheduled a significant number of games against “white” teams.

Hilldale fielded a strong team in 1920 that included Toussaint Allen (.324), Jess Barbour, Otto Briggs, Chaney White and Louis Santop (.328). Bill Francis, player-manager for Hilldale, also had an excellent pitching staff that included Dick Whitworth, Phil Cockrell, Willis “Pud” Flournoy and Connie Rector.



Hilldale (1920)
(**Bolden** – back row fourth from right)

Colored Champions of the East

In October of 1920, the Brooklyn Royal Giants and Hilldale played a four game series in the Philadelphia area to crown a “Colored Champion of the East.” The Brooklyn Royal Giants were led by player-manager John Henry “Pop” Lloyd. Besides Lloyd, the team had Eddie Douglass (first base) and Beattie Brooks (second base) and Jess Hubbard (pitcher and utility) as their top hitters. Jess Hubbard, Juan Padrone and Roy “Big Boy” Roberts were the top pitchers of Lloyd’s staff.

Games one (October 2nd) and two (October 13th) of the championship series were pitching duels between Jess Hubbard (Brooklyn) and Connie Rector (Hilldale) in game one and Jess Hubbard and Phil Cockrell in game two. Both games ended in a tie. The score in game one was 1-1 and game two ended in a 2-2 tie. Hilldale went into game three with five members of their starting lineup injured. In game three which was played in Darby (PA) on October 14th, Hilldale was forced to use four pitchers in the field. Behind Louis Santop’s three hits and a strong pitching

performance by Connie Rector, Hilldale defeated Brooklyn in game three by a score of 6-3. Pud Flournoy closed out the series on October 14th by pitching Hilldale to a 3-1 victory over Brooklyn in game four of the series. The victory gave Hilldale the “Colored Championship of the East.”

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 2 nd	Tie	1-1	-	-
2	Darby	Oct 13 th	Tie	2-2	-	-
3	Darby	Oct 14 th	Hilldale	6-3	Connie Rector	Juan Padrone
4	Darby	Oct 15 th	Hilldale	3-1	Pud Flournoy	Roy Roberts

Hilldale also played several post season exhibition games against Major League opponents after the regular 1920 season. On October 4th they played the American League All Stars. Hilldale then played the Casey Stengel All Stars. Stengel’s team took games one and two by the scores 5-2 and 4-3. Connie Rector (Hilldale) came back to win game three by a score of 6-5. Hilldale then split two games with the Babe Ruth All Stars. Hilldale shutout Ruth’s squad 5-0 in game one but Babe’s team came back to take the second game by a score of 5-3. Hilldale also lost a closely contested game against the Philadelphia Athletics by a score of 2-1.

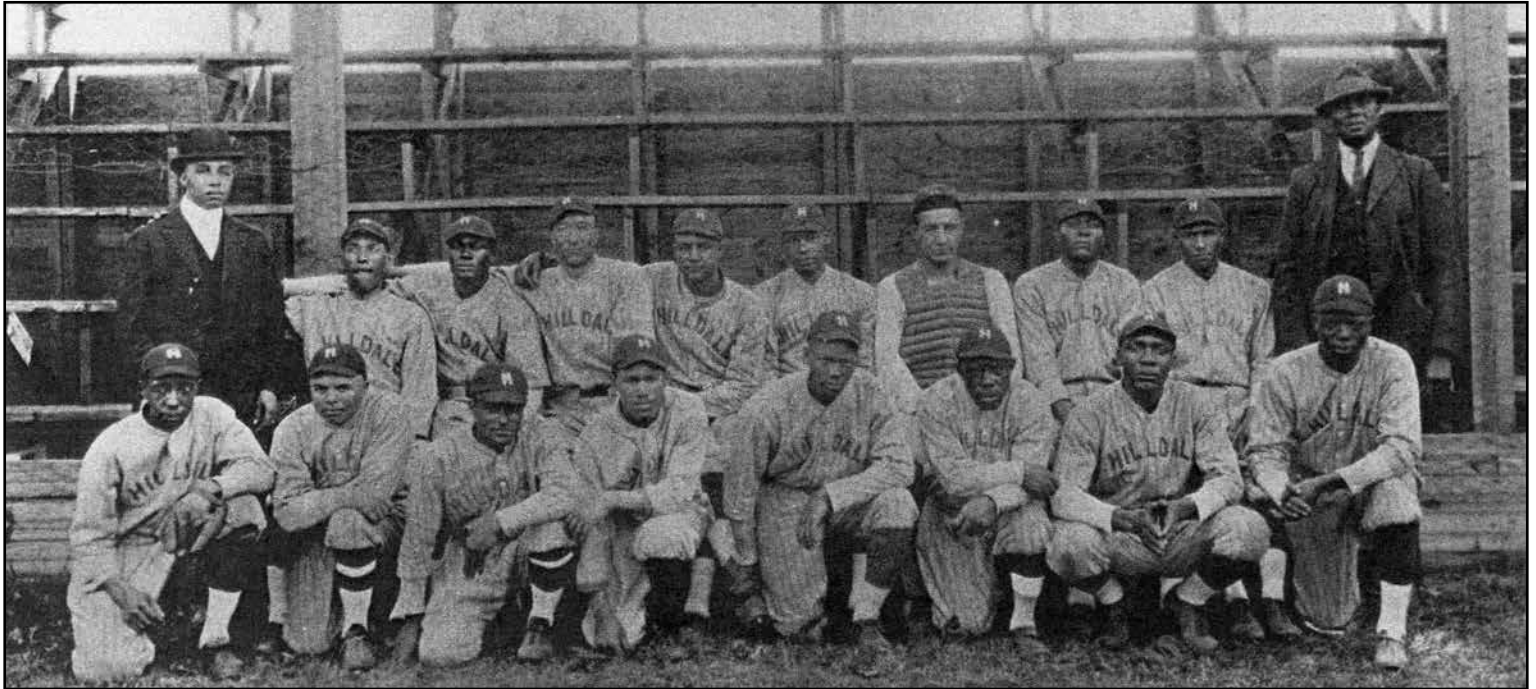
Hilldale vs American League All Stars, Casey Stengel All Stars and Babe Ruth All Stars
Phillies Ball Park

Philadelphia Tribune
10-02-20

Hilldale Joins the Negro National League

On December 3rd and 4th of 1920 Ed Bolden attended the Negro National League meeting that was held in Indianapolis. As a result of the meetings, both Hilldale and the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants became associate members of the Negro National League. As an associate member Hilldale established a formal working relationship with the “league” and played a schedule of games against “league” teams. These games did not count in the “official” standings. Ed Bolden paid a \$ 1,000 franchise fee to become an associate member of the Negro National League.

Bill Francis returned to Hilldale as their manager for the 1921 season. Louis Santop (.360), Otto Briggs (.310), Chaney White (.301) Bill Francis (.299) and George Johnson (.290) were the team's leading hitters during the 1921 season. The starting rotation for Ed Bolden's Hilldale squad in 1921 was comprised of Phil Cockrell (10-5), Dick Whitworth (7-4), Connie Rector (5-2) and Willis "Pud" Flournoy (4-4).



Hilldale (1921)

(Back row left to right – **Ed Bolden**, George Johnson, **Chaney White**, Dick Whitworth, Jim York, Connie Rector, **Louis Santop**, Pud Flournoy, Toussaint Allen and James Byrd. Bottom row left to right – **Otto Briggs**, Bunny Downs, **Jake Stephens**, Flammer, Nat Dobbins, Bill Francis, Chance Cummings and **Phil Cockrell**)

Bolden's key player acquisition in 1921 occurred when he purchased the contract of Judy Johnson from the Madison Stars for a mere \$ 100. Johnson would become a fixture of Hilldale and the Negro Leagues for the next decade.

Hilldale was considered to be the best team in the East during 1921. They finished their independent season with a record of 105-41-3 (.719). After the regular season, Hilldale defeated both the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and the Brooklyn Royal Giants to claim the "Colored Championship of the East." Next they traveled west to play a "colored championship series" versus the Chicago American Giants (winners of the Negro National League title). Hilldale won the series three games to two over the Chicago American Giants with one game ending in a tie. A summary of the series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 4 th	Chicago	5-2	Bill Holland	Pud Flournoy
2	Philadelphia	Oct 5 th	Hilldale	4-3	Phil Cockrell	Dave Brown
3	Wilmington (DE)	Oct 10 th	Chicago	5-2	Bill Holland	Dick Whitworth
4	Philadelphia	Oct 12 th	Tie	5-5	-	-
5	Philadelphia	Oct 13 th	Hilldale	15-5	Phil Cockrell	Dave Brown
6	Philadelphia	Oct 18 th	Hilldale	7-1	Dick Whitworth	Bill Holland

Hilldale was led in the Chicago series by the hitting of Louis Santop (.385) and Chaney White (.353). Phil Cockrell led Hilldale's pitching staff by winning two games. Both of Cockrell's wins were complete games.

In February of 1922 Ed Bolden helped form the Philadelphia Baseball Association (PBA). Bolden was also elected to the board of governors for the association. He was the only African American to serve on this prestigious board. The first order of business for the Philadelphia Baseball Association was to challenge the City's position of prohibiting commercialized baseball on Sunday. The PBA also helped deal with controversial issues like contract jumping, improved umpiring, gambling on baseball games, influx of college ball players and discipline problems.

Before the start of the 1922 regular baseball season Ed Bolden was said to have considered breaking his ties with the Negro National League. Supposedly when he made the decision to leave the "league," he asked Rube Foster for his franchise fee to be returned. Foster refused and when "league" play started on May 6th Hilldale was still in the Negro National League.

Bill Francis returned to Hilldale in 1922 to help them defend their championship. During the 1922 season Hilldale was led by the hitting of Louis Santop (.398), Tom Allen (.350), George Johnson (.331), Chaney White (.304) and Judy Johnson (.290). Phil Cockrell was the ace of the pitching staff that also included Willis "Pud" Flournoy, Henry Gillespie, Doc Sykes, Harry Kenyon and Charlie Henry. The highlight of the season for the pitching staff was Phil Cockrell's no-hitter against the Chicago American Giants and Doc Sykes perfect game against the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants on September 16th.

After the conclusion of the 1922 Negro National League season, Ed Bolden formerly withdrew Hilldale from the "league." Bolden's main issues with considering his team's withdrawal from the Negro National League was that Hilldale had lost several very lucrative booking dates against Eastern clubs who were on Rube Foster's banned list of teams he considered as outlaws and the cost of travel to the West was incredibly expensive. Quite often Bolden didn't make enough money from his team's share of gate receipts to cover the cost of transportation, lodging and food for his team's travel for western tour dates.

Hilldale played solid baseball all season but couldn't match their production from the year before. At the end of the 1922 season they had posted a won-loss record of 94-57-2 (.623) but it wasn't good enough to defend their "Colored Champions of the East" or "Colored Champion of the World" titles.

Formation of the Eastern Colored League

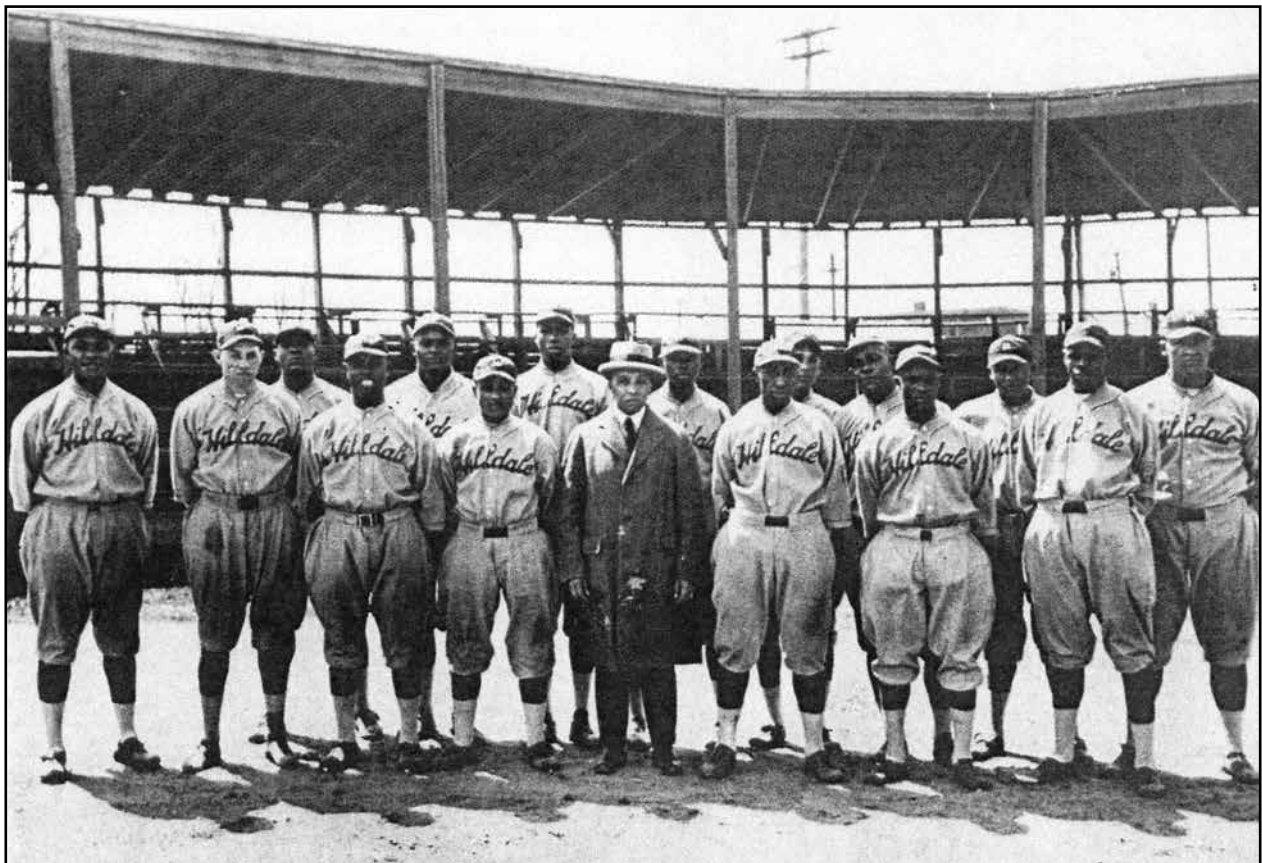
When Rube Foster formed the Negro National League in 1920 his goal was to establish a national black baseball league. Feeling threatened by Foster and the Negro National League, team owners and promoters in the East decided to form their own league and crush Foster's plan of moving his sphere of influence to the East.

Through the leadership of Ed Bolden and Nat Strong, a movement was started to form the Eastern Colored League (ECL). Bolden and Strong were logical choices to bring the proposed league together. Bolden owned the Hilldale team, controlled Hilldale Park and had the respect and trust of Eastern team owners. Nat Strong was not nearly as well-liked as Bolden but as a sports promoter, he controlled black baseball bookings in the East. In addition Strong owned the Brooklyn Royal Giants and Cuban Stars. Nat Strong and his partner Max Rosner also owned Dexter Park which was the home of the Brooklyn Bushwicks.

On December 16, 1922 a meeting of the top owners of black teams in the East was held at the Christian Street YMCA in Philadelphia. The purpose of the meeting was to form the Eastern Colored League which was officially called the Mutual Association of Eastern Colored Baseball Clubs. Attendees at the meeting included:

Attendee	Team	Attendee	Team
Ed Bolden	Hilldale	Charles Speeden	Baltimore Black Sox
Lloyd Thompson	Hilldale	George Rossiter	Baltimore Black Sox
James Keenan	Lincoln Giants	John J. McDevitt	Baltimore Black Sox
Nat Strong	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Thomas Jackson	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants
Alex Pompey	Cuban Stars	Henry Tucker	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants
		William Weeks	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

During the meeting Ed Bolden was elected Chairman of the Eastern Colored League and James Keenan was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer.



Hilldale (1923)
Eastern Colored League Champions

(Left to right – **John Henry “Pop” Lloyd**, Mervyn “Red” Ryan, Pud Flournoy, Clint Thomas, **Raleigh “Biz” Mackey**, Jake Stephens, **Jesse “Nip” Winters**, **Ed Bolden**, **Judy Johnson**, Otto Briggs, George Johnson, George “Tank” Carr, **Frank Warfield**, Toussaint Allen, Holsey “Scrip” Lee and **Louis Santop**.)

Hilldale – The Glory Years

Before the start of the 1923 Eastern Colored League season a meeting was held in Philadelphia to approve the inaugural schedule that had been created by James Keenan, Nat Strong, Charles Speeden and Ben Taylor. The “league” held its opening game on April 24th. The teams that competed in the inaugural Eastern Colored League season and their final order of finish were as follows:

Eastern Colored League (1923)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Hilldale	49	32-17	.653
Cuban Stars (East)	40	23-17	.575
Brooklyn Royal Giants	36	18-18	.500
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	42	19-23	.452
New York Lincoln Giants	38	16-22	.421
Baltimore Black Sox	49	19-30	.388

When the decision was made to form the Eastern Colored League, Ed Bolden and the other team owners started raiding western teams for their key players. Moving East was attractive to western players because eastern team owners typically paid higher salaries to players. This was possible because they had shorter distances to travel which resulted in lower travel expenses for the season and eastern teams paid cheaper ball park rentals than western teams. By March of 1923 thirty (30) top players from the West had jumped to eastern teams.

In preparation for Hilldale’s Eastern Colored League season, Ed Bolden was determined to strengthen his roster. Several key veteran players (Bunny Downs, Bill Francis, Charlie Henry, Connie Rector, Doc Sykes and Chaney White) from the 1922 team were released before the start of the 1923 season. Bolden’s plan was to raid the western teams to put together a Hilldale squad that would be the best team in the East and dominate his newly formed “league.” The Hilldale team that Bolden would put together had virtually no weakness.

Bolden targeted Frank Warfield of the Detroit Stars as his starting second baseman for Hilldale. Other players that Bolden signed were George “Tank” Carr (Kansas City Monarchs) at first base, Holsey “Scrip” Lee (Baltimore Black Sox) as a starting pitcher, John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (Bacharach Giants) at shortstop, Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (Indianapolis ABC’s) as his catcher and Clint Thomas (Detroit Stars) in the outfield. John Henry “Pop” Lloyd was also named the team’s manager for the upcoming Eastern Colored League season. Bolden’s plan worked to perfection as he put together a team that would be the most dominant team in the East for several seasons to come.

Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (.423), John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.367), George Johnson (.352), Louis Santop (.292), Otto Briggs (.284) and Clint Thomas (.281) were the team’s top hitters during the 1923 Eastern Colored League season. Newly acquired Jesse “Nip” Winters was the ace of Hilldale’s pitching staff. He led the Eastern Colored League in virtually every pitching category including a won-loss record of 13-3 (.813). Rounding out the starting rotation for Hilldale were Phil Cockrell (10-6), Mervyn “Red” Ryan (8-7), Wade Hampton (7-2) and Holsey “Scrip” Lee (7-4).

Before the end of the season, John Henry “Pop” Lloyd wore out his welcome in Hilldale and was replaced by Frank Warfield as the manager of the team.

After the 1923 season Hilldale played a six game exhibition series against the Philadelphia Athletics. Behind the pitching of Phil Cockrell and Jesse “Nip” Winters who won two game each, Hilldale won five of the six games against the Major Leaguers.

Hilldale also won the 1923 Philadelphia Baseball Association (PBA) championship when they defeated Chester.

To draw large crowds, Ed Bolden booked a significant number of Hilldale's games against white teams. One researcher purports that Hilldale played 93 of its 149 games during the 1923 season against white teams.

Hilldale was declared the Eastern Colored League champion at the end of the season.

Frank Warfield entered the 1924 season with the task of leading Hilldale's quest to defend its title as the best team in the East. Warfield had an extremely strong hitting starting line-up for the 1924 season that was as follows:

Position	Player	Avg	Position	Player	Avg
1B	George Carr	.295	OF	Clint Thomas	.289
2B	Frank Warfield	.309	OF	Otto Briggs	.290
SS	Biz Mackey	.330	OF	George Johnson	.258
3B	Judy Johnson	.336			
C	Louis Santop	.354	P	Jesse Winters	.287

Jesse "Nip" Winters continued to be the best pitcher in the East. In games against Eastern Colored League competition, Winters went 20-5 (.800). Negro League researcher John Holway credits Nip with a record of 27-4 (.871) for the season. Other pitchers on Hilldale's 1924 staff included Mervyn "Red" Ryan (13-7), Phil Cockrell (15-2), Scrip Lee (2-3), Rube Currie (1-6) William Campbell (0-0), Cliff Carter (0-0) and Wilbur Pritchett (0-0).

Not only did Frank Warfield's squad defend their Eastern Colored League championship, but they improved their "league" won-loss record. When games against both "league" and "non-league" opponents were added together, Hilldale boasted a won-loss record of 112-51-9 (.687). The "official" standings for the 1924 Eastern Colored League season were as follows:

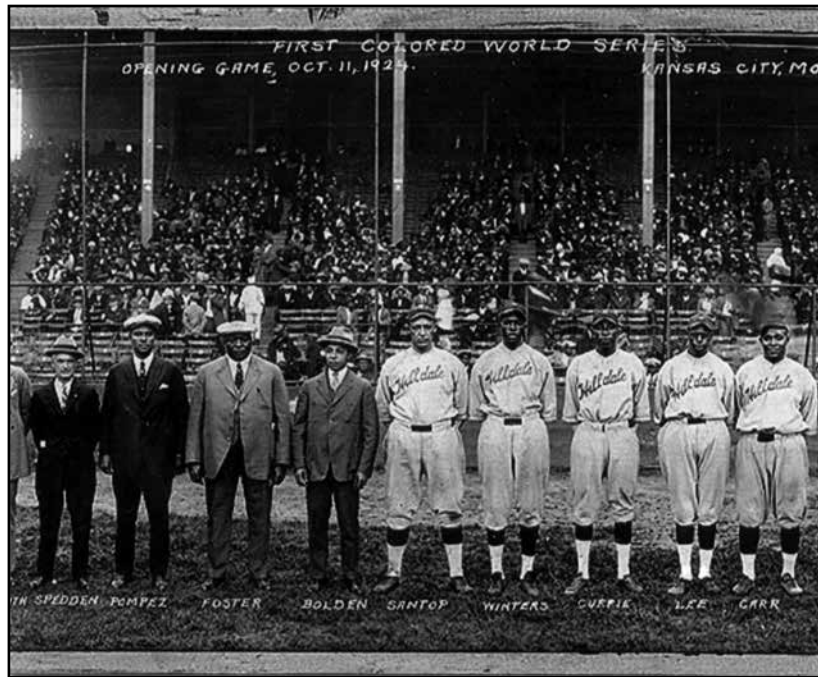
Eastern Colored League (1924)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Hilldale	69	47-22	.681
Baltimore Black Sox	51	32-19	.627
New York Lincoln Giants	57	32-25	.561
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	59	30-29	.508
Harrisburg Giants	54	26-28	.481
Brooklyn Royal Giants	42	16-26	.381
Washington Potomacs	58	21-37	.362
Cuban Stars (East)	48	17-31	.354

By winning the Eastern Colored League title, Hilldale won the right to play the Kansas City Monarchs (Negro National League champions) in the first ever Negro League World Series. This historic series pitted the top two pitchers in Negro League baseball against each other. They were Wilber "Bullet" Rogan of the Kansas City Monarchs and Jesse "Nip" Winters of Hilldale.

Bullet Rogan was 17-5 on the mound during the regular season and was also one of the Negro National League's top hitters (.409 season batting average). In addition to Rogan, the Kansas City line-up included Oscar "Heavy" Johnson (.374), Newt Joseph (.363), Walter "Dobie" Moore (.356) and Hurley Mc Nair (.346). Big Bill Drake (11-9), William Bell and Harold "Yellowhorse" Morris (7-5) helped support Rogan on the Monarchs' pitching staff.

The Hilldale club's pitching staff was anchored by Jesse "Nip" Winters, Phil Cockrell and Mervyn "Red" Ryan. Hilldale also had three future National Baseball Hall of Fame hitters in their starting line-up. They were Judy Johnson (.336), Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.330) and Louis Santop (.354).



Hilldale vs Kansas City Monarchs
First Negro League World Series (1924)

(Left to right – Charles Spedden, Alex Pompey, **Rube Foster**, **Ed Bolden**, **Louis Santop**, Jesse "Nip" Winters, Rube Currie, Holsey "Scrip" Lee and George "Tank" Carr)

The series could not have been more dramatic in how it unfolded on the field. The Kansas City Monarchs behind the brilliant pitching of aging veteran Jose Mendez beat Hilldale in the tenth game (game 3 ended in a tie) of the series by a score of 5-0 to claim the first ever Negro League World Series Championship. The series unfortunately was a financial disaster at the box office. The ten games played during the series resulted in a disappointing attendance of 45,857 fans and only \$ 52,000.00 in gate receipts. For over two weeks of work, each Kansas City Monarchs player got \$ 308.00 and each Hilldale player got \$ 193.00.

Even though Ed Bolden and Rube Foster were disappointed with fan attendance and gate receipts, they were happy because the Negro League World Series brought national attention to black professional baseball.

A summary for the 1924 Negro League World Series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Winning Score	Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 3 rd	Kansas City	6-2	Bullet Rogan	Phil Cockrell
2	Philadelphia	Oct 3 rd	Hilldale	11-0	Nip Winters	Jack Mc Call
3	Baltimore	Oct 5 th	Tie Game	6-6	-	-
4	Baltimore	Oct 6 th	Hilldale	4-3	Rube Currie	Cliff Bell
5	Kansas City	Oct 11 th	Hilldale	5-2	Nip Winters	Bullet Rogan
6	Kansas City	Oct 13 th	Kansas City	6-5	William Bell	Scrip Lee
7	Kansas City	Oct 14 th	Kansas City	4-3	Jose Mendez	Nip Winters
8	Chicago	Oct 18 th	Kansas City	3-2	Bullet Rogan	Rube Currie
9	Chicago	Oct 19 th	Hilldale	5-3	Nip Winters	Bill Drake
10	Chicago	Oct 20 th	Kansas City	5-0	Jose Mendez	Scrip Lee

WHITE SUPER PICKED BY HILDALE OWNER

Ed. Bolden Selects Ledger
Sports Writer To Have
Charge of "Umps"

RACE READERS IGNORED

That League Will Get Sufficient
Support From White
Readers

Philadelphia—The Mutual Association of Eastern Colored Baseball Clubs, in session here last week, elected Bill Dallas, white, a sports writer on the Evening Ledger, as supervisor of umpires, after it had been decided to have a rotating staff of arbiters.

Dallas was the personal selection of President Ed Bolden and no other names were considered for the post.

Dallas will have entire charge of the umps and they will be responsible to him and to him alone. The league voted him a monthly salary of fifty dollars.

Race Papers Ignored

In advocating the election of his man Bolden claimed that through him the league would be able to get publicity in white newspapers.

He has no arrangements to obtain such support from colored journals and apparently none will be made.

The Eastern league has three white and five colored owners including Alex Pompey, who is a Cuban, and colored papers all over the country have been giving them miles of space since the league was organized.

Fans Protest

The success of the league is due entirely to the publicity given them in race journals as these are read by colored people everywhere while the white dailies are confined to their immediate locality.

Fans are severely criticizing Bolden for his action as he is largely held responsible for the Dallas appointment. A vigorous protest will be launched against the Darby owner for this selection.

In the inaugural "Colored World Series," the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League defeated Hilldale of the Eastern Colored League five games to four to take the championship.

On December 11, 1924 the Eastern Colored League and Negro National League held a joint meeting in an attempt to resolve some of the issues that caused problems between the two leagues. Several team owners from both leagues attended the meeting. Ed Bolden headed up the group from the Eastern Colored League and Rube Foster led the Negro National League owners. The main accomplishment of the meeting was establishing a national agreement on territorial rights for both leagues. The Eastern Colored League was given the East Coast and Atlantic seaboard with Pennsylvania being their western boundary. The meetings also standardized player contracts and formally installed a player reserve clause in player contracts.

Following the joint league meeting, the Eastern Colored League held their annual meeting on January 24, 1925. The meeting was held at the Christian Street YMCA in Philadelphia. The meeting was attended by Ed Bolden (Hilldale), Charles B. Johnson (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants), Alex Pompey (Cuban Stars), George Robinson (Wilmington Potomacs), Charles Speeden (Baltimore Black Sox), Nat Strong (Brooklyn Royal Giants), C.W. Strothers (Harrisburg Giants) and William Weeks (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants). At the meeting Ed Bolden was reelected as the Chairman of the Eastern Colored League. The two major accomplishments at the meeting were the approval of a 70 games season schedule and a plan for controlling umpiring.

Bolden's plan for dealing with the problem of umpiring was not well received around the Eastern Colored League. Traditionally umpires were provided by the home team. This was often a source of controversy because according to the visiting team, close calls seemed to always go to the home team. Bolden's plan was to have umpires who were hired by the "league" and went from city to city. To make matters even worse for Ed, he hired a "white" Supervisor of Umpires by the name of Bill Dallas. When Ed was questioned about his choice of hiring a white supervisor, his response was that there were no qualified blacks who could have filled the position. Hiring a "white" supervisor of the "league's" umpires did not go over well with Hilldale fans. Bolden's plan for revamping the system of umpiring did not work and the "league" returned to the old system the next year.

Bolden Hires a "White" Supervisor of the Umpires

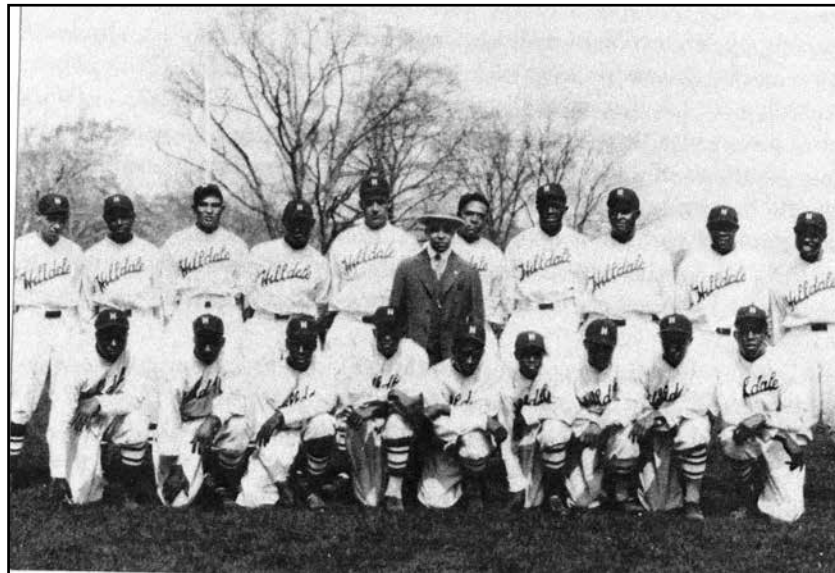
The teams that competed in the 1925 Eastern Colored League, their records and final order of standing for the 1925 season are as follows:

Eastern Colored League (1925)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Hilldale	67	52-15	.776
Harrisburg Giants	55	37-18	.673
Baltimore Black Sox	51	31-20	.608
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	52	26-26	.500
Brooklyn Royal Giants	33	13-20	.394
Wilmington Potomacs	35	13-22	.371
Cuban Stars (East)	41	15-26	.366
New York Lincoln Giants	46	7-39	.152

The Wilmington Potomacs dropped out of the league in July of 1925.

Hilldale won its third Eastern Colored League championship in a row.



Hilldale (1925)

(Back row left to right – Mervyn “Red” Ryan, **Judy Johnson**, George Johnson, unknown, **Louis Santop**, **Ed Bolden**, George “Tank” Carr, unknown, **Raleigh “Biz” Mackey**, Bill Campbell and Clint Thomas.
Front row left to right – Phil Cockrell, Bill Robinson, Hosley “Scrip” Lee, Namon Washington, **Frank Warfield**, Rocky Ellis, Jake Stephens, **Otto Briggs** and **Jesse “Nip” Winters**.)

Hilldale put an even stronger hitting line-up on the field for the 1925 season. Hilldale’s starting line-up and their batting averages for the 1925 season were as follows:

Player	Position	Batting Average	Player	Position	Batting Average
Tank Carr	1B	.365	George Johnson	OF	.310
Frank Warfield	2B	.313	Clint Thomas	OF	.329
Jake Stephens	SS	.241	Otto Briggs	OF	.335
Judy Johnson	3B	.389			
Biz Mackey	C	.338	Jesse “Nip” Winters	P	.327

Hilldale also had an outstanding pitching staff that included Jesse “Nip” Winters (15-8), Rube Currie (9-3), Red Ryan (5-2), Scrip Lee (4-1), William Campbell (2-3) and Charlie Henry (2-3).

Hilldale - Negro League World Series Champions

By the virtue of winning the Eastern Colored League championship, Hilldale also gained the right to play the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro League World Series. The 1925 Negro League World Series was a repeat match up of the year before with the Kansas City Monarchs (Negro National League) and Hilldale (Eastern Colored League) ending their regular seasons as the two best teams in Negro League baseball. The Kansas City Monarchs got back to the Negro League World Series by winning the first half of the regular Negro National League season with a record of 62-23 (.729) and then beating the St. Louis Stars (winners of the second half of the season) four games to three in the best of a seven game Playoff Series. Hilldale dominated the Eastern Colored League regular season with a record of 52-15 (.776).

The Kansas City Monarchs were a very strong team who had six players in their starting line-up that hit over .300 for the season: Bullet Rogan (.374), Hurley Mc Nair (.365), Newt Joseph (.335), Dobie Moore (.333), Newt Allen (.307) and Wade Johnston (.304). The Monarchs also had a strong pitching staff that included Bullet Rogan (20-2), Nelson Dean (11-3), William Bell (10-3) and Bill Drake (10-4).

The 1925 Negro League World Series began on October 1st with the first four games being played at Muehlbach Stadium in Kansas City. Games 5 and 6 were played in Philadelphia at the Baker Bowl. The 1925 Negro League World Series was originally scheduled to be the best five out of nine games, but Hilldale won five of the first six and were crowned as the Negro League World Series champions.

The 1925 Negro League World Series was an even worse financial disaster than the year before. The total attendance for all six games was 20,867 with gate receipts for the entire series of a mere \$ 21,000.00. Part of the reason for the low attendance was that Philadelphia was hit with extremely cold weather for the two games played at the Baker Bowl. The net income after expenses for the series was \$ 5,871.95. As the winning team, Hilldale received \$ 1,233.11 to divide amongst their players and Kansas City got \$ 822.08. When they left to go home, each member of the losing Kansas City Monarchs got \$ 57.64 per man or less than \$ 10 a game. As a Commissioner of the Negro League World Series, Ed Bolden received \$ 400 plus expenses to oversee the series.

A summary of the 1925 Negro League World Series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Winning	Loosing	
				Score	Pitcher	Pitcher
1	Kansas City	Oct 1 st	Hilldale	5-2	Rube Currie	Bill Drake
2	Kansas City	Oct 2 nd	Kansas City	5-3	Nelson Dean	Phil Cockrell
3	Kansas City	Oct 3 rd	Hilldale	3-1	Red Ryan	Jose Mendez
4	Kansas City	Oct 4 th	Hilldale	7-4	Nip Winters	Bill Drake
5	Philadelphia	Oct 8 th	Hilldale	2-1	Rube Currie	Cliff Bell
6	Philadelphia	Oct 10 th	Hilldale	5-2	Phil Cockrell	William Bell

Hilldale Plays in Eastern Colored League and Joins the Interstate League

At the annual meeting of the Eastern Colored League before the start of the 1926 season, Ed Bolden was reelected as Chairman and Charles Speeden was elected as the Secretary of the "league." The major accomplishments of the meeting were the establishment of a salary cap of \$ 3,000 per month per team, passage of a policy calling for a five year suspension for any player jumping his contract and a requirement for any player owing money to a club to have repaid it by July 1st.

Besides playing in the Eastern Colored League during the 1926 season, Hilldale also played in the Interstate League. The Interstate League was a Pennsylvania based integrated league that was comprised of three white teams (Allentown Dukes, Camden and Chester) and three black teams (Bacharach Giants, Harrisburg Giants and Hilldale). The reason for Hilldale joining the "league" was very simple. The Interstate League offered better booking dates and was financially more lucrative than the Eastern Colored League. The Interstate League games played between the black teams also counted in the Eastern Colored League standings.

Sources differ as to what place Hilldale was in when the Eastern Colored League disbanded. According to the Afro American Hilldale was the "league" champion when the league disbanded in August. Research by Gary Ashwill credits Hilldale with a record of 53-33-2 (.614) for the top record in the East. Other sources have Hilldale ending the 1926 Eastern Colored League in third place in the final "league" standings with a won-loss record of 34-24 (.586). The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (34-20) are also credited with winning the Eastern Colored League title and the Harrisburg Giants (25-17) finished in second place.

Louis Santop (.355), John Beckwith (.343), Biz Mackey (.333), Judy Johnson (.319), George "Tank" Carr (.306), Oscar Charleston (.302), Clint Thomas (.294) and Otto Briggs (.286) were Hilldale's leading hitters during the 1926 season.

The Hilldale pitching staff in 1926 was headed up by Jesse "Nip" Winter (19-6), William "Zip" Campbell (11-5), Phil Cockrell (10-4), Mervyn "Red" Ryan (10-11) and Scrip Lee (9-5). Negro League research credits William Campbell (2.00), Jesse "Nip" Winters (2.23) and Phil Cockrell (2.96) with the three best earned run averages in the Eastern Colored League. Another highlight of the Hilldale pitching staff in 1926 was a no-hitter pitched by Charlie Henry on June 27th versus the Newark Stars.

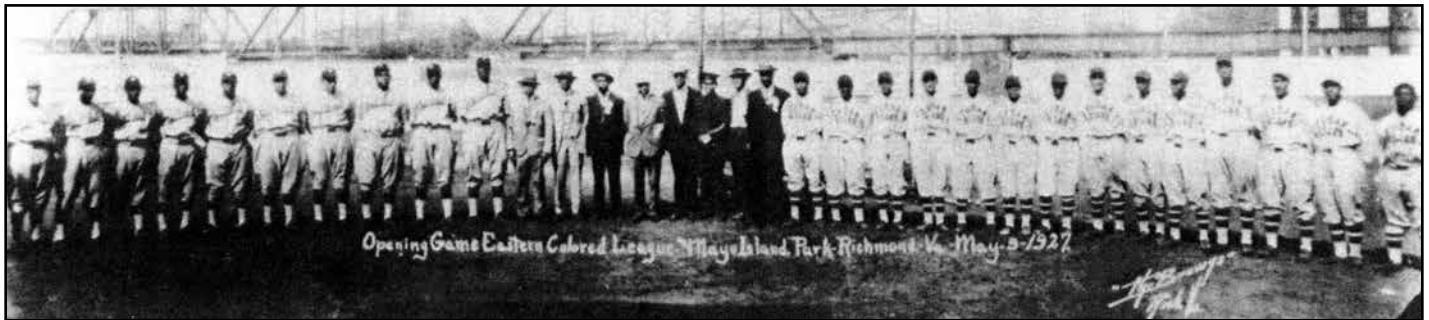
After the 1926 regular season, Hilldale played a six game exhibition series against the Major League All Stars. The series started on October 1st with Hilldale taking a 3-2 win with Phil Cockrell on the mound for Hilldale. When the series concluded play, Hilldale had won five of the six contests.

Bolden Ousted as Eastern Colored League Chairman

When the joint annual Eastern Colored League (ECL) and Negro National League (NNL) meeting was held on January 11-13, 1927 at the YMCA in Detroit (MI), Ed Bolden was unseated as President of the Eastern Colored League. The reason for his replacement was that the majority of the team owners saw a conflict of interest with the President of the "league" also being a team owner. Replacing him was Isaac Nutter. This marked the first time that a non-owner was elected as the President of a Negro League organization. Nutter was an attorney from Atlantic City, New Jersey. James Keenan was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer of the ECL. Bolden would replace Keenan in this position in August of 1927. Three major changes to ECL policy were implemented at the meeting. First there was a salary cap of \$ 2,700 per month initiated for each team. Second rosters were limited to fourteen (14) players and thirdly umpires became under the direction of the "league."

Hilldale struggled on the field all season. When the 1927 season ended they had posted a losing record of 36-45 (.444) and ended up in fifth place in the final "league" standings. This was the worst season in the history of the team and the worst season in the managerial career of Frank Warfield. The reason for their troubles was that as a team they didn't get any hitting or pitching. George "Tank" Carr (.339) was the only regular to hit over .300 for the season. Consistent hitters like Otto Briggs (.255), George Johnson (.264), Judy Johnson (.253), Joe Lewis (.231), Biz Mackey (.284), Clint Thomas (.268) and Frank Warfield (.221) all hit well below their career average. On the mound only Jesse "Nip" Winters who went 12-7 in "league" games delivered. No

other member of the starting rotation had a winning record. William Campbell dropped to a record of 0-8, Phil Cockrell broke even at 11-11, Scrip Lee was winless at 0-4 and Red Ryan was 4-6. According to research by John Holway in games against all levels of competition the Hilldale pitching staff even fared worse. Holway's research credits the Hilldale staff with the following won-loss records for the season: Jesse "Nip" Winters (18-16), Phil Cockrell (14-21), Mervyn "Red" Ryan (8-15), Scrip Lee (3-10) and William "Zip" Campbell (1-11).



Hilldale vs Cuban Stars

Opening Day of 1927 Eastern Colored League Season

Maryland Park
Richmond, VA

The 1927 season proved to put a tremendous amount of stress on Ed Bolden's health. Some of the major stressors that Bolden was faced with during the season were:

1. Declining fan support at the box office resulted in financial problems for the team.
According to the media Hilldale lost \$ 18,500 during the 1927 season.
2. Hilldale suffered through their first losing season in their history.
3. During the season the Eastern Colored League was unable to resolve scheduling issues.
4. There were dilemmas the entire season with umpiring.
5. During the season Bolden was forced to take several periods of unpaid leave from the USPO to deal with ECL business.

In September of 1927 Ed Bolden suffered what was termed a nervous breakdown which temporarily put him out of baseball. He resigned as a commissioner on the Eastern Colored League board and stepped down as President of Hilldale. Vice President Charles Freeman took over as the President of Hilldale from Bolden.

At the winter meetings prior to the start of the 1928 season, Lloyd Thompson and Charlie Freeman attended the meeting representing Hilldale. They announced to the meeting participants that Bolden was no longer the President of the Hilldale club. Bolden who was also at the meeting confirmed their story, but also told the meeting attendees that he had recently acquired enough additional stock to make him the majority owner and that by the start of the season he would be in control of the Hilldale team. After much discussion Ed Bolden was elected as the secretary of the Eastern Colored League.

Bolden Regains Control of Hilldale

In February of 1928 Ed Bolden was reinstituted as the President of Hilldale. One of the first things Ed did when he took over the team was to release Bill Francis who Charles Freeman had hired as a non-playing manager. Francis was replaced with player-manager Otto Briggs. The reason was very simple; it saved the team money.

On March 8, 1928 Ed Bolden was reinstated as President of the Eastern Colored League. Shortly thereafter Hilldale withdrew from the "league" and played an independent schedule the rest of the season. After losing so much money in 1927, Bolden felt the team could do significantly better playing an independent schedule. The Harrisburg Giants and the Brooklyn Royal Giants also dropped out of the "league" at the same time Hilldale withdrew. In a letter to the editor of the Philadelphia Tribune, Ed Bolden cited three reasons for his decision.

1. Several teams didn't adhere to the official Eastern Colored League schedule.
2. Lack of cooperation between "league" commissioners.
3. The "league" went back to their old umpire system rather than staying with a system of rotating umpires.

After just a dismal season in 1927, Ed Bolden knew that he needed to make serious changes to his roster in order to get his team back on track. Before and during the season Bolden added the following players to his line-up in order to bolster Hilldale's hitting attack: Walter "Rev" Cannady (.336), Oscar Charleston (.341), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (.354) and Chaney White (.352). Holdovers Biz Mackey (.356) and Clint Thomas (.312) also had very good seasons at the plate in 1928. Bolden didn't stop with his offense; he also revamped his pitching rotation. New members of the starting rotation included Porter Charleston (5-6), Daltie Cooper (10-5), John "Neck" Stanley (2-3) and Joe Strong (5-3). Only Phil Cockrell (7-5), Red Ryan (8-5) and William Campbell (2-0) remained from the previous season.

When Bolden dropped out of the Eastern Colored League, Isaac Nutter assumed the role of President and did his best to try to hold the "league" together. His first order of business was to grant franchises to the Eastern Stars of Philadelphia (later renamed the Philadelphia Tigers) and the Brooklyn Stars. By April most of the remaining team owners became resolved to the fact that the Eastern Colored League was only short lived. The Eastern Colored League officially disbanded in June of 1928. With the "league" gone all the top teams in the East finished the season playing an independent schedule.

During the 1928 season Hilldale posted a record of 15-12 (.556) against Eastern Colored League teams. When their won-loss record from their independent schedule was added to their Eastern Colored League record, Hilldale ended the season with an impressive won-loss record of 119-40-3 (.748)

Things had been very difficult for team owners in the Eastern Colored League before it disbanded, but independent ball would prove to be even more challenging. In an article that appeared in the Pittsburgh Courier by Rollo Wilson, the Courier sportswriter cited the following reasons as to why independent baseball was not in the best interest of team owners and why a new "league" should be considered:

1. Scheduling an entire season of nothing but independent games for all the top teams in the East would be a very difficult task at best.
2. Many white teams would not book many of the black teams because they perceived many of the black teams too weak to offer attractive opposition that would generate a good crowd.

3. Twilight games which had been the bread and butter of black teams were being scheduled less often.
4. Independent baseball would create a bidding war for the best players and that would cripple team owners financially.
5. Team managers and owners would find it difficult to discipline players without a “league” in place to enforce rules.

According to newspaper coverage by December of 1928, Ed Bolden had become open to the discussion of a “new” league.

American Negro League

Under the leadership of Ed Bolden (Hilldale) and Cumberland Posey (Homestead Grays), owners of the top black teams in the East met at the Citizens Republican Club on January 15-17, 1929 in Philadelphia and formed the American Negro League (ANL). Two of the primary issues discussed during the meeting were suspending players who failed to report to their clubs and the issue of consistent umpiring. The following “league” officers were elected during the meeting:

Officer	Position
Ed Bolden	President
James Keenan	Vice President
W. Rollo Wilson	Secretary (sports writer for <u>Pittsburgh Courier</u>)
George Rossiter	Treasurer

Unlike the old Eastern Colored League, the American Negro League felt that it was important to develop a strong relationship with the media. To help accomplish this objective, Bolden invited the press to the “league” meetings and even promoted Rollo Wilson being elected to a “league” position.

According to research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark, the teams that played in the American Negro League in 1929 and their final standing were as follows:

American Negro League (1929)

	Games	Record	Pct.
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
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	64	19-45	.297
Cuban Stars (East)	54	15-39	.278

The 1929 Hilldale club had the highest payroll in team history. The team included four future National Baseball Hall of Fame members (Oscar Charleston, Martin Dihigo, Judy Johnson and Raleigh “Biz” Mackey). Each of these players made in excess of \$ 900 for the six month season. As a team, Hilldale averaged a payroll of \$ 700 per player.

The top hitters for Hilldale during the 1929 season were Judy Johnson (.376), Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (.328), Oscar Charleston (.324), Martin Dihigo (.320), Chaney White (.317) and Robert Hudspeth (.295). The pitching staff for Hilldale was led by Porter Charleston (12-10), Daltie Cooper (9-11), Joe Strong (7-3), Phil Cockrell (6-3) and Martin Dihigo (5-3).



Hilldale (1929)
American Negro League

Hilldale finished the 1929 American Negro League season in fourth place with a record of 39-35 (.527). In games against all levels of competition Hilldale went 67-50-8 (.573) for the 1929 season.

As a “league” the American Negro League struggled all season. With a lack of team owner support the American Negro League disbanded on February 17, 1930.

Bolden is Out at Hilldale

After the “league” broke up, Ed Bolden publicly promoted disbanding the Hilldale team. He cited the following issues as reasons why Hilldale should no longer field a ball club:

1. Losing their lease to the Hilldale Park in Darby.
2. Player salaries had continued to escalate causing financial problems.
3. Department of opposing players had become totally unacceptable.
4. Lack of cooperation between team owners continually created difficulties.

When the annual Hilldale stockholders’ meeting was held Bolden presented his case for disbanding the team to the members. Unfortunately for Ed, the majority of the stockholders did not agree with him and the Board of Directors recommended the election of new officers. Led by Jim Byrd, Charles Freeman and Lloyd Thompson, Ed Bolden was ousted from the club that he had built. When a new election was held, Lloyd Thompson was elected President, Charles Freeman became the Board Secretary and Jim Byrd became the Treasurer.

After the takeover by Thompson, rumors began to circulate that Bolden would form a new team with the financial backing of Harry Passon who was a white sports promoter in Philadelphia. The team was to play under the name “Ed Bolden’s Hilldale Club.” Otto Briggs was going to manage the team and supposedly several key players were ready to sign with Bolden. These players included Rev Cannady, Porter Charleston, Phil Cockrell, Biz Mackey and Chaney White.

Hilldale Factions Will Battle for Club Control

Fight to be Waged to Oust
Edward Bolden from Lead-
ership

! DAISY PLAYERS IDLE

Byrd, Freeman, Thompson
Hinted as Successors

PHILADELPHIA. — What about Hilldale? the moot question that has been the recent query on many lips is destined to take definite outlines when the stockholders meet here Wednesday, to elect a board of directors to administrate the affairs of the Hilldale Company, owners of the Darby Daisies.

Ed Bolden, president and part owner, who has headed the club almost since its inception, and who has been a stormy petrel since a rift occurred in the ranks three years ago, received a rude jolt when he advocated and attempted to dissolve the company that has been "carrying on" for almost a quarter of a century. The owners defeated the effort and immediately demanded the annual stockholders meeting for the election of directors, that they claim has been ignored since early in November of last year.



Bolden

Three Seek Job

Three former officers of the company, Jim Byrd, Charlie Freedman and Lloyd Thompson have hats in the ring to oust Bolden and his henchmen. Meanwhile many of the ball players who finished the season with the Daisies in 1929 are camping around Philadelphia, awaiting with interest news from an official source and pondering over their individual chances of berths on a club that has long been recognized one of the bul-

THOMPSON ELECTED AS HILLDALE HEAD

Bolden Ousted; Freeman and
Byrd Named Secretary and
Treasurer

CLUB TO FUNCTION

Problem of Getting Park Big-
gest Worry

PHILADELPHIA — Lloyd Thompson, who for a long time has been connected with the destinies of the Hilldale baseball team, was chosen president of the Hilldale Company, to succeed Edward Bolden, when the stockholders held their annual meeting last week.

Charles Freeman was chosen as secretary while James Byrd will be treasurer. These men are by no means unfamiliar figures in the affairs of the Hilldale Company and are virtually being returned as officials who held office over a long period of years and have been instrumental in establishing Hilldale as Philadelphia's major colored club.

Need Park

The present directors are determined that there be no lapse in the operation of the Hilldale Club and the Darby Daisies will take field to start its twenty-first diamond campaign, despite the fact that they have been inducted into office on the very eve of season's opening. The personnel of the club is a weighty matter that will require some tall hustling to assemble within a little over a fortnight, but with the general condition following the collapse of the American Negro League, Thompson expects to land enough capable talent to plug up the gaps of the Daisies ensemble. However, ball hawks are not the only pressing need that harasses the owners. Hilldale Park, the heretofore home loan is an undetermined matter and the problem of a new lease is being sought post-haste.

May Sue Bolden

Then too Bolden and his cohorts exercised a bit of undue haste in attempting to wind up the affairs of the company. Before being assured by a meeting that the stockholders were in accord or a vote been polled relative to the dissolving the company all of the paraphernalia and personal property from office furniture to water buckets have been parceled off to the owners of Passon Field 48th & Spruce Sts., where it is rumored that the new Hilldale team was to hold forth. The officials contend the company will take legal steps to recover the property.



Lloyd Thompson
Hilldale
President
(1930)

When Lloyd Thompson finally got Hilldale organized for the 1930 season, he had secured Passon Field for the team to play their home games on and had worked out an agreement with Nat Strong to book their games. In addition Thompson also signed Otto Briggs, Rev Cannady, Phil Cockrell and Biz Mackey. This ended any speculation that Ed Bolden would field his own team.

Troubles at the Post Office

In August of 1930 Ed Bolden was presented with further tragedy when he was faced with the strong possibility that he could be demoted from his position at the United States Post Office where he had been held in esteem since he began working there in 1904. The reason that Ed was in trouble was that his efficiency rating had dropped from 100 % to 91.9% and he was required to have a rating of above 95 % in order to keep his job. Bolden was given the opportunity to save his job when Congressman James Wolfenden wrote a letter on his behalf to the Philadelphia Postmaster. Wolfden's recommendation worked and Bolden was placed on probation for six months with no loss of pay. Ed Bolden then directed all of his efforts to his Post Office job and his efficiency rating went back up which resulted in him keeping his job.

Bolden Moves to the Darby Phantoms

Ed Bolden was out of baseball during the 1930 and 1931 seasons. In early 1932 Ed was made an honorary member of the Darby Phantoms Athletic Club. The organization fielded amateur teams in several sports, but Bolden was most interested in their baseball team. The Darby Phantoms were an excellent baseball team and had won three straight Inter-Urban Twi-light League championships in 1929, 1930 and 1931. Bolden's plan was to sign some professional players to strengthen their roster and have them play as a travelling ball club. He promoted the team as "Ed Bolden's Phantoms." After only moderate success Bolden abandoned the idea of making the Phantoms a "big time" baseball club.

Philadelphia Stars – Bolden Returns to Negro League Baseball

In 1933 Ed Bolden and Eddie Gottlieb (white booking agent) joined forces and formed the Philadelphia Stars. Gottlieb provided the financial backing and ability to book as many games as the Stars wanted to play. Bolden and Gottlieb's goal was to put together a team and enter them in the Negro National League. Taking on a white partner seemed to go against everything Bolden stood for as a man of race. Bolden defended his actions by focusing on the decision as one of economics. It took money to run a first class baseball team and those resources according to Ed weren't available in the African American community. Trading race for sound financial backing still didn't go down well.

The first thing Bolden and Gottlieb did was sign Dick Lundy as the team's manager and Webster McDonald as the Stars' secretary. McDonald also pitched for the Philadelphia Stars during the

season. Next the Stars went about raiding other teams for their roster. Instead of paying players a set salary, the players shared in the gate receipts.

Bolden, Lundy and McDonald were able to recruit a very formidable line-up for their inaugural season. The 1933 Philadelphia Stars were led by the hitting of Herbert "Rap" Dixon (.394), Jud Wilson (.372), Jake Stephens (.317) and Chaney White (.281). The starting line-up for the Stars also included Dick Lundy at shortstop and Biz Mackey at catcher. The Philadelphia Stars pitching staff was anchored by Paul Carter (4-1), Webster McDonald (4-3), Porter Charleston (3-0), Herb Smith (2-1), Jim "Cannonball" Willis (2-1) and Cliff Carter (2-2). These pitching records are for games against top level competition.

During the 1933 season the Philadelphia Stars played the majority of their games during the season against white teams. During the month of June they only played two games against black teams (Philadelphia Bacharach Giants and Pittsburgh Crawfords).

According to some Negro League researchers the Philadelphia Stars were an associate member of the Negro National League in 1933 and compiled a record of 14-8 (.636) against "league" teams and a record of 19-12 (.613) in games against top level teams. They were considered the best independent team in the East and along with the Kansas City Monarchs of the West, one of the two top independent teams in all of black baseball.

Ed Bolden was invited to attend the Negro National League meeting on January 13, 1934 but did not attend. He and Webster McDonald (who was now the manager of the Philadelphia Stars) did attend the "league" meeting on February 10th that was held in Philadelphia at the Citizens Republic Club. During the meeting a plan was presented and passed to restructure the Negro National League into a new six team league that would include the Philadelphia Stars. Gus Greenlee wanted the Stars in the "league" to open the Philadelphia market to the "league." By the time the season was over the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Baltimore Black Sox also played in the Negro National League during the 1934 season. The New York Black Yankees were granted an associate member status for the season.

The teams that played in the Negro National League in 1934 and their final order of standing were as follows:

Negro National League (1934)

Games	Record	Pct.	
Philadelphia Stars	38	25-13	.658
Chicago American Giants	43	28-15	.651
Pittsburgh Crawfords	50	31-19	.620
Nashville Elite Giants	35	17-18	.486
Newark Dodgers	25	11-14	.440
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	15	3-12	.200
Baltimore Black Sox	7	1-6	.143
Cleveland Red Sox	29	4-25	.138

Note: Negro League researchers Gary Ashwill and Scott Simkus credit the Philadelphia Stars with a record of 33-17-2 (.654) in games against Negro National League competition.

During the 1934 the Philadelphia Stars played their home games at Passon Field (also called Elks Field) which was located at 48th and Spruce in Philadelphia.

Attendance at Philadelphia Stars' games went up significantly during the 1934 season. First, Pennsylvania's blue laws which didn't allow professional baseball to be played on Sundays were repealed. Secondly, there was a greater availability of lights for night games. In addition the economy in the black community seemed to be getting healthier.

The Philadelphia Stars fielded a star-studded line-up for their inaugural season in the Negro National League. Jud Wilson (.347), Chaney White (.307) and Biz Mackey (.303) led the team in hitting. The real key to the success of Philadelphia was their ace pitcher Stuart "Slim" Jones. He was considered the best pitcher in black baseball in 1934 with a record of 20-5 (.800). Glen "Rocky" Ellis (7-2), Webster McDonald (7-3 in "league" games and 12-4 overall) and Paul Carter (5-1) also had excellent seasons on the pitching mound for the Stars. The combination of solid hitting and outstanding pitching made the Philadelphia Stars a force to be reckoned with in their first year in the Negro National League.

Negro National League Championship Series

The Chicago American Giants won the first half of the 1934 Negro National League season and the Philadelphia Stars won the second half with a record of 11-4 (.733). The two teams met in an eight game championship series. The Negro National League Play-off for the 1934 season started on September 14th with the first four games being played in Chicago before the two teams traveled to Philadelphia.

Bill Foster (Chicago) beat Rocky Ellis (Philadelphia) 4-3 in game one on Mule Suttles run scoring single in the top of the ninth inning. Games two and three were played four days later (September 16th) as a double header in Chicago. Ted Trent (Chicago) shut out the Stars by a score of 3-0 in the first game of the doubleheader and Webster McDonald (Philadelphia) beat Bill Foster in the second game by a score of 5-3.

Giants Split With Philly Stars in Chicago Clash

CHICAGO. — (ANP) — The American Giants and the Philadelphia Stars split a double-header Sunday at Cole's park in the Chicago playoff of a series involving the second half championship of the Negro National League.

The Giants took the opener behind steady pitching by Ted Trent, 3 to 0, and the visitors won the second affair, 5 to 3. Trent beat Slim Jones, the eastern sensation in the first game in which he gave up five hits.

2,000 See Game

A crowd of about 2,000 saw the games. Jones kept the seven bingles he granted well scattered except in the sixth when Marshall combed a single to left, held second while the long legged Baltimore lad was fanning Trent, and then trotted home on Stearn's triple to left center. Radcliffe scored Stearns on a single. Suttles fanned and Bizz Mackey doubled Radcliffe for the third out.

The Giants picked up their third tally in the eighth when Trent doubled with two down and Stearns again rose to the occa-

sion by obligingly singling to deep center to score the pitcher.

Wild Pitching

The second game was a nightmare of wild pitches and passed balls mixed up with some strange underhand offering dished up by the veteran Submarine McDonald.

The latter had his game well in hand and survived Willie Foster, starting moundsman for the locals and then shaded Cornelius rescuer of the famous lefthander. Philadelphia picked up a run in their third on two singles, a base on balls and an error. The Giants came back at them in the same inning with three runs scored on four safe hits.

This ended the scoring on the part of the locals for the cold, windswept afternoon. The Stars waited until the next frame to get two more runs when Dunn doubled and Washington brought him home on a triple to center. Washington scored, himself, on a wild pitch. A single, a sacrifice, a base on balls a long fly and a wild pitch by Cornelius gave the invaders their fourth and fifth runs in the fifth inning.

Game four was a pitching duel between Willie Powell (Chicago) and Rocky Ellis (Philadelphia) that ended in 2-1 victory for Chicago. Powell limited the Stars to five hits and Ellis gave up only four hits while taking the loss.

Ten days later (September 27th) game five was played in Philadelphia at Passon Field. Rocky Ellis (Philadelphia) beat the American Giants 1-0 to get the Stars to within one game of Chicago. Game six was played on September 29th and resulted in a 4-1 win for Philadelphia. Cliff Carter got the win for the Stars and Ted Trent took the loss for the American Giants. Controversy surrounded game six when Philadelphia Stars' third baseman Jud Wilson allegedly hit umpire Bert Gholston which should have meant immediate ejection. Wilson, much to the surprise of everyone, was allowed to remain in the game. A similar incident occurred later in the game when Stars' catcher Ameal Brooks pushed an umpire and was not ejected. The Stars walked away with the victory and the series was now tied at three games apiece.

Prior to the start of game seven, Dave Malarcher protested the incident of Jud Wilson hitting Gholston in game six to Negro National League Commissioner Rollo Wilson. The team owners and umpires met with Commissioner Wilson to discuss the incident. Gholston told the Commissioner that he had wanted to eject Jud Wilson but that Jud threatened him and that he (Golston) buckled under the pressure. Ed Bolden then informed Rollo Wilson that if Jud Wilson (no relation) were suspended that Philadelphia would not play game seven. Commissioner Wilson gave in to Bolden's threat and the series was ordered to resume.

Game seven wasn't played until October 11th and ended up proving nothing as it ended in a 4-4 tie. Webster McDonald sent his ace (Slim Jones) to the mound for the deciding game eight of the series. Jones was up to the challenge and pitched a five hit 2-0 shutout of the American Giants. The victory gave the Philadelphia Stars their first ever Negro National League title.

In a side note both the American Giants and the Stars filed protests over games seven and eight. Philadelphia claimed that Chicago had used an ineligible player and Chicago claimed that the two games should not have been played at night. The "league" upheld the Philadelphia Stars series win.

A summary for the 1934 Negro National League Championship Series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Chicago	Sept 12 th	Chicago	4-3	Bill Foster	Rocky Ellis
2	Chicago	Sept 16 th	Chicago	3-0	Ted Trent	Slim Jones
3	Chicago	Sept 16 th	Philadelphia	5-3	Webster Mc Donald	Bill Foster
4	Chicago	Sept 17 th	Chicago	2-1	Willie Powell	Rocky Ellis
5	Philadelphia	Sept 27 th	Philadelphia	1-0	Rocky Ellis	Bill Foster
6	Philadelphia	Sept 29 th	Philadelphia	4-1	Cliff Carter	Ted Trent
7	Philadelphia	Oct 11 th	Tie	4-4	-	-
8	Philadelphia	Oct 12 th	Philadelphia	2-0	Slim Jones	Sug Cornelius

According to research by Scott Simkus and Patrick Rock, the Philadelphia Stars had a won-loss record of 43-22-3 (.654) in games against all levels of competition in 1934.

On October 16th the Stars faced the Dizzy Dean All Stars in a double header. Philadelphia won both games by the scores of 8-0 and 4-3.

After winning the Negro National League title in 1934, there was no place for Philadelphia to go but down and they did just that. The Stars never got untracked during the 1935 season. The Stars were hurt during the season by dwindling attendance due to a weakening economy. In addition

long road trips to the West weren't profitable and they took booking dates away that could have been filled with highly profitable games against white teams.

During the 1935 season Bolden's Stars played their home games at Passon Field and Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA Field.

The Philadelphia Stars fielded a strong hitting line-up during the 1935 season. Leading the hitting attack for the Stars in 1935 were Mickey Casey (.383), Ted Page (.359), Jud Wilson (.344), Jake Dunn (.306), Dewey Creacy (.302), Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.287) and Chaney White (.283).

Unfortunately for Bolden his pitching staff didn't live up to their performance from the year before. The biggest disappointment for the Stars was Slim Jones. He went from a record of 20-5 in 1934 to a dismal record of 4-5 in 1935. The top pitchers for the 1935 Stars were Webster McDonald (8-4), Rocky Ellis (7-4), Paul Carter (5-2) and Lefty Holmes (3-6).

Philadelphia finished the year with a disappointing record of 29-28 (.509) and ended the 1935 season in fourth place in the final "league" standings. Research by Scott Simkus and Patrick Rock credits Philadelphia with a record of 34-31-4 (.522) for the 1935 season. The Pittsburgh Crawfords ran away with the Negro National League title with an unbelievable 42-15 (.737) record for the 1935 season.

On March 7th and 8th of 1936 the Negro National League held a meeting at the 135th Street YMCA in New York City. It was at this meeting that Ed Bolden replaced Gus Greenlee as the Chairman of the Negro National League. Other officers elected at the meeting were Abe Manley (Vice Chairman), John L. Clark (Secretary), Tom Wilson (Treasurer) and Ferdinand Q. Morton (Commissioner).

Before the start of the 1936 season, Philadelphia moved to 44th and Parkside Ball Park (also over the years called Parkside Field, Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA Athletic Field and Penmar Park) for their home games. The Stars would remain at 44th and Parkside Park until 1952. Philadelphia also played some games at Shibe Park (aka Connie Mack Stadium – home of both the Philadelphia Athletics and Philadelphia Phillies). Most of the games played at Shibe Park were held on Monday nights.

The Philadelphia Stars fielded a strong hitting lineup in 1936 that included Obie Lackey (.380), Roy "Red" Parnell (.374), Norman "Turkey Stearnes (.327), Dewey Creacy (.311), Jake Dunn (.311), Jud Wilson (.309) and Bill Yancey (.292).

Unfortunately for Ed Bolden, his pitching staff let him down. As a team the Stars pitchers gave up almost five (5) runs a game. Webster McDonald (8-10), Bertum Hunter (7-3), Laymon Yokely (6-5), Sad Sam Thompson (5-4) and Rocky Ellis (4-2) comprised the starting rotation for the Stars during the 1936 season. The biggest disappointment in Philadelphia's pitching staff continued to be Slim Jones who could only manage a record of 1-2 for the season. He had gone from the most dominant pitcher in the East in 1933 to an undependable face in the bull pen.

The Stars ended the 1936 season with a record of 25-30 (.455) in Negro National League play. They were in fifth place in the final "league" standings. In games against all levels of competition the Stars had a record of 31-38-1 (.450) with the worse overall record in the Negro National League. The Pittsburgh Crawfords (36-24) repeated as Negro National League champions.

Going into the 1936 Negro National League season, Bolden thought he could employ the same strategies that had worked for him as Chairman of the Eastern Colored League. This, however, was not to be. The 1936 season proved to be very difficult for Ed Bolden in his job as the head of the Negro National League. Uncooperative owners made it difficult to enforce "league" rules and

play a regular schedule. Team owners frequently missed “officially” scheduled league games in favor of playing a barnstorming schedule. The culmination of this frustration ended in the “league’s” championship series. When several members of the Crawfords and Elite Giants skipped the series in favor of barnstorming, Bolden canceled the series after only one game had been played. Ed defended his action by saying that a series that lost money was worse than no series at all. In January of 1937, Ed Bolden was out and Gus Greenlee was back in as Chairman of the Negro National League.

When the 1937 season opened gone were Turkey Stearnes and Bill Yancey from the starting lineup. To make matters even worse all the other top hitters’ production fell off dramatically from the season before. What little hitting and run production that Philadelphia got during the season was led by Roy Parnell and Jud Wilson.

According to research by John Holway, Sad Sam Thompson (11-5) had the best record in the Negro National League. Other starting pitchers for Philadelphia during the 1937 season were Webster McDonald (5-3), Rocky Ellis (4-6) and Jim Missouri (3-4).

Philadelphia continued their mediocre play in 1937 and posted their second losing season in a row. They ended the year with a record of 25-27 (.481) and in fourth place in the “league.” The Homestead Grays (31-13) won the Negro National League title and started a string of nine years in which they would dominate the “league.”

After several seasons of mediocrity, Ed Bolden decided to make significant changes to his roster. Prior to the start of the 1938 season, Ed Bolden signed the following new players to bolster his hitting attack: Clyde Spearman (.301), Chester Williams (.296), Jake Spearman (.286), Pat Patterson (.284) and Bill Perkins (.256). All the new hitters produced at the plate to give the pitching staff the much needed run support that they had not had the season before.

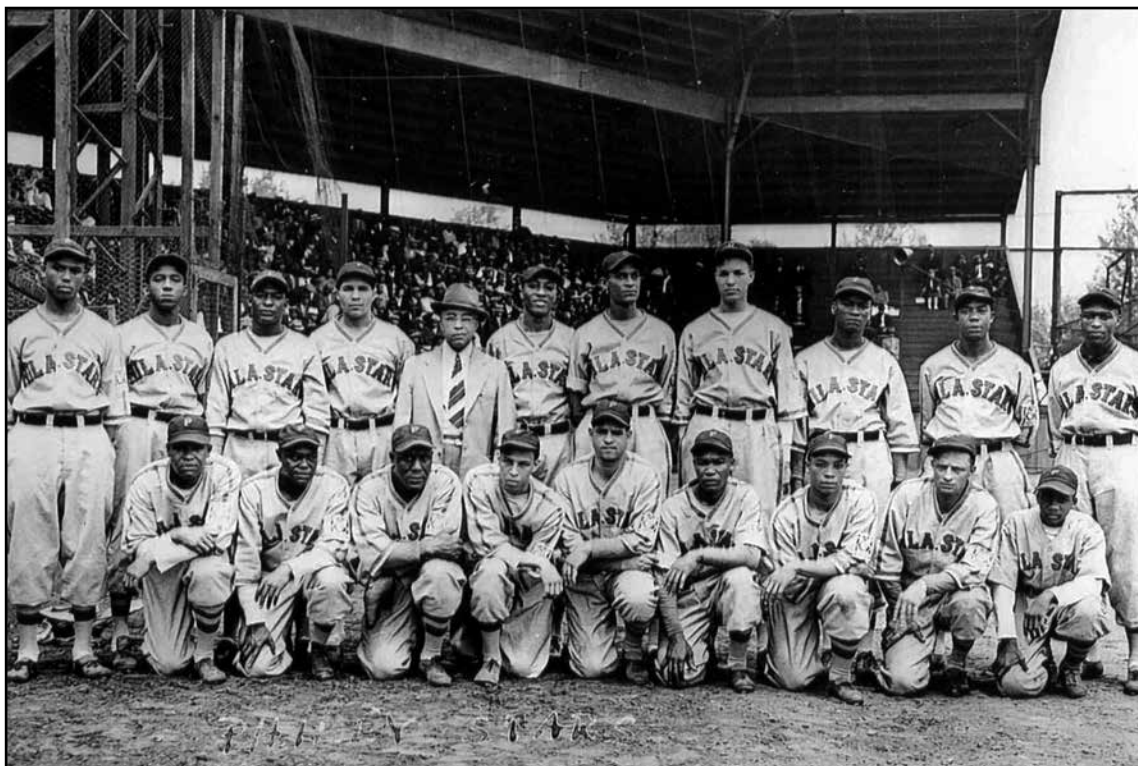
Bolden did not stop with bringing in new hitters. He also signed three new pitchers to the pitching staff. They were Ernest Carter (6-3), Henry McHenry (5-2) and Jack Burton (4-3). Holdovers Webster McDonald (6-7) and Jim Missouri (5-1) rounded out the starting rotation.

The changes worked. The Philadelphia Stars got back to their winning ways in 1938. They went 30-24 against Negro National League competition. Even with a winning record they were still only in fifth place in the final Negro National League standings. The Homestead Grays (27-10) won both halves of the season and were crowned Negro National League champions for the second straight year.

On February 18th and 19th of 1939 the Negro National League held their annual meeting. At the meeting Gus Greenlee (Pittsburgh Crawfords) resigned as President and was replaced by Tom Wilson (Baltimore Elite Giants). Other officers that were elected at the meeting included Ed Bolden (Vice President), Abe Manley (Treasurer) and Cumberland Posey/Eddie Gottlieb (split the job of Secretary)

Philadelphia got decent hitting in 1939. Pat Patterson (.331), Chester Williams (.323), Roy Parnell (.306), Gene Benson (.299) and Jim West (.284) were the team’s best hitters during the season. The pitching staff for the Stars in 1939 included Henry McHenry (10-5), Sad Sam Thompson (5-5), Webster McDonald (5-7), Roy Welmaker (4-1) and Jim Missouri (2-8).

The Philadelphia Stars returned to mediocrity in 1939. They ended the season with a 31-32 (.492) record. At the end of the season they were in fourth place in the “league” standings and light years behind the “league” leader Homestead Grays (33-14).



Philadelphia Stars (1939)
Negro National League

(Back row left to right – Henry Miller, Ernest Carter, Bill Perkins, Henry McHenry, **Ed Bolden**, Chet Brewer, Sam Thompson, Bill Deck, Harry Simpson, Tom Evans and Rocky Ellis. Front row left to right – **Webster McDonald**, Clyde Spearman, **Jud Wilson**, unknown, Jake Dunn, Gene Benson, **Roy “Red” Parnell** and unknown.)

At the end of the 1939 regular season a Play-Off Series was held matching the top four teams in the Negro National League to crown a “league” championship. Jacob Ruppert, owner of the New York Yankees, donated a trophy that would be given to the winner of the series. The Homestead Grays beat the Philadelphia Stars in the first series winning 3 games to 2. The Baltimore Elite Giants beat the Newark Eagles 3 games to 1 and then defeated the Homestead Grays to claim the Negro National League title.

Before the start of the 1940 baseball season, the Negro National League held two meetings. The first meeting was held on February 2nd at Eddie Gottlieb’s offices in Philadelphia. The second meeting was held on February 23rd and 24th at the Grand Hotel in Chicago. At the meetings Tom Wilson was elected as the “league” President and Ed Bolden was elected as Vice President.

Things got even worse than the prior season for the Stars in 1940. They struggled all season long. When the year ended they were in next to last place in the Negro National League with a record of 30-44 (.405). Only the lowly New York Black Yankees who were the perennial doormat of the “league” had a worse record at 10-23 (.303).

During the 1940 season the Stars were led by the hitting of Jim West (.347), Gene Benson (.318), Bill Bea (.315), Roy Parnell (.310) and Larnie Jordan (.302). Hitting wasn’t the problem for Philadelphia during their 1940 season; it was ineffective pitching. Other than Henry McHenry (15-7) who was the ace of the pitching staff, no other Stars pitcher had a winning record for the season. According to Negro League researcher John Holway, Chester Buchanan (5-9), Samuel Thompson (2-6), Hank Miller (1-3), Jim Missouri (1-6) and Ralph Johnson (1-5) rounded out the pitching staff.

On January 3, 1941 the Negro National League annual meeting was held in Baltimore at the York Hotel. At the meeting Tom Wilson was elected as President and Ed Bolden was elected as the Vice President of the “league.”

If the 1940 season were not bad enough, the 1941 season was even worse. They ended the season in last place in the final Negro National League standings with a record of 13-29 (.310). Even the New York Black Yankees who were at home finishing at the bottom of the “league” standings had a better record at 13-19 (.406).

Pat Patterson (.323) was the only player in the starting line-up to hit over .300 for the 1941 season. Larnie Jordan (.284), Roy Parnell (.284) and Robert Palm (.278) had decent seasons but could not provide enough run support to produce wins. To make matters worse the pitching staff was even more ineffective than Philadelphia’s hitting. Every starting pitcher had a losing record for the season. Henry McHenry (6-14), Edsall Walker (4-6), Chet Brewer (2-6), Chester Buchanan (1-7) and Joe Filmore (1-8) were the primary starters on the pitching staff.

Prior to the start of the 1942 season, Ed Bolden was reelected as Negro National League Vice President. The meeting was held in Baltimore on February 14th.

After one of the worst seasons in Ed Bolden’s career, he knew that drastic changes had to be made. First, Oscar Charleston was hired as the team’s manager. Bolden then signed Homer “Goose” Curry (.371), Jake Spearman (.344) and Buster Clarkson to breathe life back into Philadelphia’s hitting attack. In addition Ed brought in Barney Brown (10-10) and Terris McDuffie (6-4) to help turn around the pitching staff.

The Philadelphia Stars rebounded from their horrific performance in 1941. They played solid baseball all season and ended the year with a winning record of 21-17 (.553). The Stars moved up from last place in 1941 to third place in the final 1942 Negro National League standings.

Ed Bolden was reelected as the Vice President of the Negro National League in a meeting that was held in Philadelphia at the Quaker City Elks Lodge on January 23, 1943.

The 1943 Philadelphia Stars were led by the hitting of Gene Benson (.303), Jim West (.300), Roy “Red” Parnell (.298), Jake Spearman (.293) and Homer “Goose” Curry (.288). Barney Brown (7-9), Chester Buchanan (6-3), Verdell “Lefty” Mathis (4-2), Homer “Goose” Curry (3-3) and Zeke Keys (2-0) were the team’s top pitchers.

Researchers disagree on the Philadelphia Stars record in 1943. Larry Lester and Dick Clark credit Philadelphia with a record of 26-28 (.481) and in fifth place for the 1942 Negro National League season. Negro League researcher John Holway credits the Stars with a record of 26-21 (.553) and in third place in the final “league” standings.

On January 5, 1944 the Negro National League held its annual meeting. The meeting was held in New York City at the Hotel Theresa. Tom Wilson was elected as President and Ed Bolden retained his position as the Vice President.

Ed Bolden revamped his roster for the 1944 season and came away with an excellent hitting lineup that included:

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Jim West	.349	OF	Ed Stone	.339
2B	Marvin Williams	.365	OF	Gene Benson	.306
SS	Frank Austin	.338	OF	Goose Curry	.303
3B	Jake Spearman	.280			
C	Bill Cash	.281	C	Roy Campanella	.440



Philadelphia Stars (1944)

(Back row left to right – Stanley Glenn, Garrel Hartman, Bill Ricks, Henry Miller, Marvin Williams, **Ed Bolden**, Ed Stone, Homer “Goose” Curry, Jim West, Hubert “Country” Glenn, Clarence Palm and **Oscar Charleston**. Front row left to right – Frank Austin, Bob Boone, Mahlon Duckett, Barney Brown, Ulyssess Mahoney, Gene Benson and Bill Cash.)

Philadelphia also had a solid pitching staff in 1944 that included Bill Ricks (11-7), Barney Brown (7-4), Hank Miller (4-3), Bill Byrd (4-4) and Hubert Glenn (3-2).

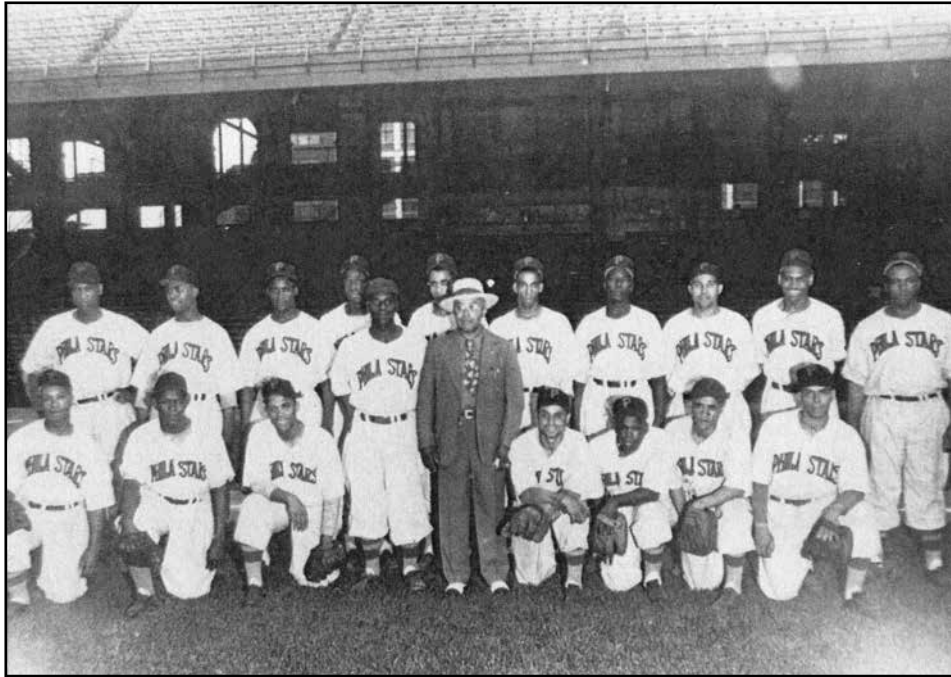
During the second half of the season the Philadelphia Stars battled the Homestead Grays for the championship. On September 9th which was the final day of the season, the New York Cubans beat the Homestead Grays in a doubleheader that was played at Briggs Stadium in Detroit. For some unexplained reason only one loss was counted in the official “league” standings. This resulted in a significant amount of controversy. With only one of the two losses being counted, the second half of the Negro National League season went to Homestead. If both losses had been counted, the season would have ended in a tie between Philadelphia and Homestead. Bolden felt very strongly that both losses should be counted and appealed his case to Negro National League President Tom Wilson. Bolden’s case was not upheld. The final standings for the second half of the Negro National League season were as follows: Homestead Grays (12-5), Philadelphia Stars (15-7), Baltimore Elite Giants (15-10), New York Cubans (6-6), Newark Eagles (8-15) and New York Black Yankees (2-15).

The 1944 season saw improvement in the Stars play against Negro National League competition. After finishing two games under five hundred in 1943, they finished three games over the five hundred mark. Philadelphia went 21-18 (.538) in “league” play in 1944 and ended the year in third place in the Negro National League.

The Philadelphia Stars fielded a solid team in 1945 that featured the hitting of Frank Austin (.395), Homer Curry (.325), Marvin Williams (.325), Gene Benson (.307) and Mal Duckett (.284). The pitching staff for the Stars in 1945 was made up of Roy Partlow (7-3), Bill Ricks (6-4), Barney Brown (4-1), Pete Sunkett (3-1) and Hank Miller (3-3)

Philadelphia ended the 1945 season with a winning record for the second year in a row. They went 21-19 (.525) which put them in fourth place in the final Negro National League standings for the 1945 season.

By the mid 1940's it was clearly evident that the integration of Major League baseball was on the horizon. The biggest issue for team owners like Ed Bolden was whether or not they were going to be fairly compensated when their best players started signing with Major League organizations. This issue was partially answered for Bolden on May 14, 1946 when he sold Roy Partlow's contract to the Brooklyn Dodgers for the sum of \$ 1,000.00. While the amount of money that Bolden got for Partlow's contract was not significant, it did help establish a precedent of Major League baseball recognizing the validity of the contracts that Negro League players had with their teams.



Philadelphia Stars (1946)

(Back row left to right – Joe Fillmore, Henry Miller, Wesley “Doc” Dennis, Bill Ricks, Harry Simpson, Wilmer Harris, Joe Craig, Henry McHenry, Bill Cash and James “Buster” Clarkson. Middle row left to right – Homer “Goose” Curry and **Ed Bolden**. Front row left to right – Gene Benson, John Thorn, Mahlon Duckett, Murray Watkins, Frank Austin, George Wilson and Larry Kimbrough.)

When the 1946 Negro National League season started, the Philadelphia Stars were led by the hitting of Frank Austin (.349), Gene Benson (.340), Doc Dennis (.331) and Buz Clarkson (.319). Barney Brown (10-6) and Henry McHenry (8-3) anchored the Stars 1946 pitching staff. Joe Filmore (3-3), Wilmer Harris (3-4), Eddie Jefferson (1-1), Hank Miller (1-1), Bill Ricks (0-2) and Willie Hubert (0-1) also pitched for Philadelphia in 1946.

The Philadelphia Stars finished the 1946 season in fourth place just like they had done in 1945. They had a won-loss record of 27-29 (.482) for the season.

The major event for Ed Bolden during 1946 was that he retired from the post office after over 40 years of service.

When Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, Ed Bolden was very much in support of black players gaining access to the Major Leagues. Bolden felt that this would make the Negro Leagues even stronger because black players would play even harder now that there was the possibility of playing in the “white” leagues. History would prove Bolden wrong.

The 1947 Philadelphia Stars were managed by Oscar Charleston. It appears that the Philadelphia Stars struggled at the plate during the 1947 Negro National League season. According to research by John Holway Murray Watkins (.294), Gene Benson (.286), Frank Austin (.284), Archie Braithwaite (.277) and Bill Cash (.276) were the team's top hitters.

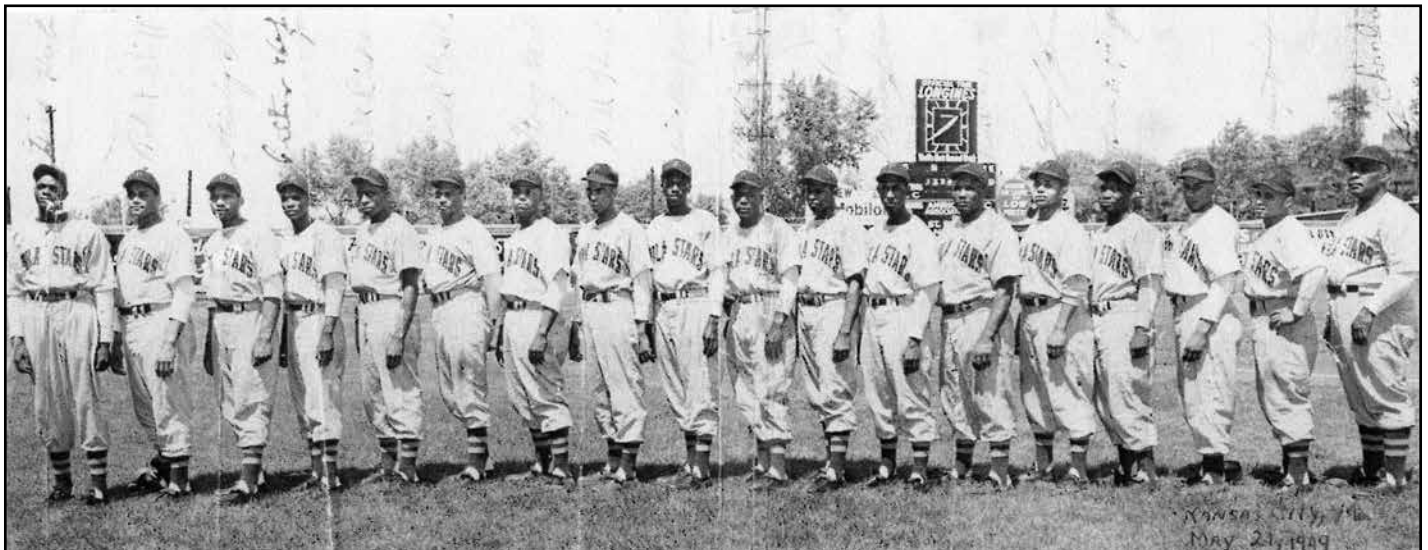
The pitching staff for Philadelphia in 1947 included Henry Miller (9-3), Henry McHenry (6-7), Wilmer Harris (3-1), Barney Brown (2-9) and Alex Newkirk (2-9).

Philadelphia could not post a winning record for the 1947 Negro National League season. They finished five games under five hundred with a record of 26-31 (.456).

Very few box scores have been uncovered for the 1948 Negro National League season. The top players for the Stars in 1948 included Doc Dennis (1B), Frank Austin (SS), Murray Watkins (3B), Bill Cash (C), Gene Benson (OF) and Alonzo Braithwaite (OF). Philadelphia's pitching staff included Barney Brown, Hal Gould, Henry McHenry, Hank Miller, Roy Partlow and Bill Ricks.

In the final season of the Negro National League, the Philadelphia Stars went 27-29 (.482) and ended the year in fourth place. The Homestead Grays were the champions of the Negro National League in their final year of existence.

When the Negro National League folded after the 1948 season, Philadelphia joined several of the other Negro National League teams and moved to the Negro American League. Prior to the start of the 1949 season, the Negro American League reorganized into an Eastern and Western Division in order to accommodate the Negro National League teams that would be moving over to their league. During the 1949 baseball season, the Philadelphia Stars played in the Eastern Division of the Negro American League. Other teams in the Eastern Division were the Baltimore Elite Giants, Indianapolis Clowns, Louisville Buckeyes and New York Cubans.



Philadelphia Stars (1949)
Negro American League

(Standing left to right – Herb Hill, Robert Griffith, Stanley Glenn, Art Hefner, Bill Ricks, Bill Cash, Henry Miller, Wilmer Harris, Will Thompson, Marvin Williams, Jimmy Armstead, Barney Brown, James Clarkson, Lefty Jones, Ben Little, Jimmy Dean, Murray Watkins and **Oscar Charleston**.)

Ed Bolden, Phila. Stars Owner, Dies

Edward (Ed) Bolden, for many years one of baseball's leading figures, died last Wednesday in Mercy-Fitzgerald Hospital, where he had been admitted the previous Saturday following a stroke in his home at 300 Marks Ave., Darby.

Mr. Bolden, who was 88, was generally recognized as one of the pioneers in the movement to organize colored baseball along the lines of its white counterpart. He was owner of the Philadelphia Stars.

The movement bore fruit in 1924 when the Eastern and Western Colored Leagues were organized. The famous Hilldale team, which Bolden had helped form in 1910, joined in the Eastern circuit and was one of its leading nines until the team withdrew in 1928.

At the time of the withdrawal, Bolden said the league was a failure, but that he still felt colored baseball should be organized and, in 1933 he was instrumental in the formation of the Negro National and the Negro American Leagues.

A new team organized by Bolden, the Stars, was the local entry in the NNL and in 1934 it won the loop championship and went on to beat the NAL champions in the colored world series.

Philadelphia returned to the Eastern Division of the Negro American League for the 1950 season.

After suffering through a losing season in 1949, things only got worse for the Stars in 1950. They ended the year in fifth place in the final "league" standings with a horrific record of 15-28-1 (.349). Only the hapless Cleveland Buckeyes (3-39) had a worse record in "league" play.

Passing of a Pioneer

Sources differ on when Edward J. Bolden passed away in Darby, Pennsylvania after suffering a massive stroke. Three dates (September 15, 17 and 27) have all been cited as his date of passing.

When Bolden passed away, control of the Philadelphia Stars baseball team passed from Bolden to his daughter, Dr. Hilda Bolden-Shorter, who was a 46 year old pediatrician in Philadelphia. She owned the team until it disbanded in 1952.

Baltimore Afro American

10-30-50



Philadelphia Stars (1951)

(Oscar Charleston – standing fourth from left and Dr. Hilda Bolden-Shorter – standing fifth from left)

Assessing Ed Bolden's Career

- Ed Bolden was a true **pioneer in Negro League baseball**. He owned the Hilldale Club (1910-1929) and then the Philadelphia Stars (1933-1950).
- Bolden was instrumental in **founding the Eastern Colored League** in 1922 and was instrumental in forming the **American Negro League** in 1929.
- During his career he served as an **officer** in the following leagues:

League	Position	Years (s)
Philadelphia Baseball Association	Board of Governors	Multiple Years
Eastern Colored League	Chairman	1923-1926
Negro League World Series	Commissioner	1925
Eastern Colored League	Secretary-Treasurer	1927
Eastern Colored League	President	1928
American Negro League	President	1929
Negro National League	Chairman	1936
Negro National League	Vice President	1939-1944

- Bolden's teams won **four (4) Eastern Colored League championships, one (1) Negro League World Series, one (1) Interstate League title and one (1) Negro National League title**.

Team	League	Year	League Record
Hilldale	Eastern Colored League	1923	32-17 (.653)
Hilldale	Eastern Colored League	1924	47-22 (.681)
Hilldale	Eastern Colored League	1925	52-15 (.776)
Hilldale	Negro League World Series	1925	5-1 (.833)
Hilldale	Interstate League	1926	12-4 (.750)
Hilldale	Eastern Colored League	1926	53-33-2 (.614)
Philadelphia Stars	Negro National League	1934	25-13 (.658)

In addition, Hilldale won unofficial "championship" series over the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1920, Atlantic City Bacharach Giants in 1921 and the Chicago American Giants in 1921.

Hilldale also won the Philadelphia Baseball Association (PBA) championship in 1923.

- With Ed Bolden heading up the Hilldale Baseball and Exhibition Company the corporation proved that a **black enterprise could succeed, make a profit and benefit the community**.
- Ed Bolden was **well respected by "white" Philadelphia team owners and promoters**. Bolden helped form the Philadelphia Baseball Association in February of 1922 and was the only African American elected to their board of governors.
- Bolden was **one of the first black baseball executives to embrace the media** and use it to promote his team. His relationship with the Philadelphia Tribune enabled him to use the newspaper as a marketing tool to receive free advertising and publicity.

- Over the course of his career, Ed Bolden developed a reputation of **hiring the best players in black baseball in the East**. The following ten (10) Negro League stars whom went on to be elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame played for Hilldale and the Philadelphia Stars during the years that Bolden owned the team: Oscar Charleston, Martin Dihigo, Judy Johnson, John Henry “Pop” Lloyd, Raleigh “Biz” Mackey, Leroy “Satchel” Paige, Norman “Turkey” Stearnes, Ben Taylor, Smokey Joe Williams and Jud Wilson.
- Ed Bolden seemed to have **two different careers as an owner** in Negro League baseball. His Hilldale team won the Eastern Colored League championship in each of the first three years of the “league.” From 1923 through the 1925 season Hilldale was considered the best team in the East. In his seven years as the owner of Hilldale the team posted a won-loss record of 255-170 (.600) in “league” play and only had one losing season. In addition Hilldale also dominated local and “non-league” opponents.

Other than their championship in their first season in the Negro National League in 1934, the Philadelphia Stars were only a mediocre team. In his eighteen (18) years as the owner of the Philadelphia Stars, the team posted a record of 437-472 (.481) and had eleven (11) losing seasons. After their 1934 championship season, the Philadelphia Stars never finished above third place and they only did that twice (1942 and 1944).

Why Bolden’s Philadelphia Stars fell apart after the 1934 season is open to conjecture. From this researcher’s perspective some of factors that should be taken into consideration are as follows:

1. Ed Bolden simply didn’t have the “big” money to sign players like Gus Greenlee (Pittsburgh Crawfords) and Cumberland Posey (Homestead Grays).
2. Having Eddie Gottlieb as a partner with the Philadelphia Stars may also have impacted Bolden’s ability to sign and retain the best players possible. Over his career Gottlieb had a reputation of concentrating more on booking as many games as possible and making as much money as he could than fielding a championship caliber team.
3. Bolden had been active as an owner and “league official” plus holding down a full time job at the United States Post Office for over twenty (20) years when the Philadelphia Stars began their slide. This had to take a toll on him both mentally and physically. We do know that he was susceptible to mental stress because he suffered a nervous breakdown in 1927 and sometimes people just “burn out.”
4. Another possibility is that the demands of his job with the United States Post Office took more time away from his ability to run his baseball team.

Whatever the true answer was no one can deny Ed Bolden’s contributions to Negro League baseball.

- It is important to keep in mind that besides owning a team and most often serving as a “league” officer; Ed Bolden held down a **fulltime job in the United States Post Office** for over 40 years and actively served with several non-profit organizations in the Philadelphia area.
- Finally, Bolden was a **key figure in black baseball** even before there was a Negro National League (1920) or a Negro American League (1937) and he was still active when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier and integrated professional baseball.

Leading Players Signed by Bolden to Play for Hildale

Player	Position	Year (s)
Toussaint "Tom" Allen	1B	1919-1924
Jess Barbour	OF	1920
John Beckwith	SS	1926, 1929, 1931
Otto Briggs	OF	1917, 1919-1928, 1930
Elias "Country" Brown	OF	1918
Rev Cannady	1B, 2B, P	1928, 1931
George "Tank" Carr	1B, OF, C	1923-1927
Clifford "Cliff" Carter	P	1924, 1928-1930, 1932
Oscar Charleston	OF, 1B	1926, 1928-1929
Porter Charleston	P	1927-1929, 1931-1932
Phil Cockrell	P, OF	1918-1932
Nap Cummings	1B, OF	1918-1919, 1921-1922, 1925
Rube Currie	P	1924-1925
William "Eggie" Dallard	C, OF, 1B	1921, 1928-1932
Martin Dihigo	SS, 2B, P, 3B, OF	1929-1931
Herbert "Rap" Dixon	OF	1931
McKinley "Bunny" Downs	SS, 3B, OF	1917-1922, 1929
Luther Farrell	P	1925
Willis "Pud" Flourney	P	1919-1923
Bill Francis	3B, SS	1920-1922
Charles Freeman	3B, OF	1913-1917
Kenneth "Ping" Gardner	P	1922-1923, 1930
Henry Gillespie	P, OF	1916-1917, 1920-1922, 1930
Crush Holloway	OF	1929, 1932
Jess Hubbard	OF, 1B, P	1919, 1930
Clarence "Fats" Jenkins	OF	1928, 1931
George Johnson	OF	1918-1925, 1927
Judy Johnson	3B, SS	1918, 1921-1929, 1931-1932
Holsey "Scrip" Lee	P, 3B, OF	1923-1927, 1930
Oscar Levis	P	1930-1931
Joe Lewis	C	1924-1925, 1927-1932
John Henry "Pop" Lloyd	SS	1923
Dick Lundy	SS	1917-1920, 1923
Webster McDonald	P	1930-1931
Raleigh "Biz" Mackey	C, SS, 3B, 1B, OF	1923-1931
Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle	3B	1919
Bill Pettus	C, 1B, 3B	1917-1918
Spottswood Poles	OF	1917, 1919
Connie Rector	P	1920-1922
Mervyn "Red" Ryan	P, OF	1922-1929, 1931
Louis Santop	C	1917-1918, 1920-1926
Paul "Jake" Stephens	SS, 2B	1921, 1929, 1931
Frank "Doc" Sykes	P	1917-1918, 1922-1923
Ben Taylor	1B	1919
Clint Thomas	OF, 2B	1923-1928
Lloyd Thompson	2B, SS, OF, 3B	1910-1916
Frank Warfield	2B	1923-1928
Namon Washington	SS, 2B, OF, C	1925-1927
Burlin White	C	1919
Chaney White	OF	1920-1922, 1930-1932
Dick Whitworth	P	1920-1921
Smokey Joe Williams	P	1917, 1919
Tom Williams	P, OF	1918-1919
Jess "Nip" Winters	P, 1B	1923-1927, 1931
Bill Yancey	SS	1927, 1931
Jim York	C	1919-1921

Hilldale – Yearly Records

Year	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
1910	0	2	0	.000
1911	23	6	0	.793
1912	19	6	1	.760
1913	16	7	0	.696
1914	18	7	0	.720
1915	20	8	2	.714
1916	19	9	2	.679
1917	23	15	1	.605
1918	41	7	0	.854
1919	40	23	2	.635
1920	102	34	6	.750
1921	105	41	3	.719
1922	94	57	2	.623
1923	137	43	6	.761
1924	112	51	9	.687
1925	121	48	5	.716
1926	117	57	2	.672
1927	84	61	5	.579
1928	119	40	3	.748
1929	67	50	8	.573
1930	77	58	5	.570
1931	120	31	4	.795
1932	29	30	1	.492

Hilldale Park – Attendance Records

Year	Total Attendance (Saturday & Holiday Games)	Dates	Average
Ed Bolden Ownership			
1926	46,123	26	1,844.9
1927	41,366	26	1,591.0
1928	39,572	25	1,582.9
1929	38,411	28	1,371.9
John Drew Ownership			
1930	14,361	22	652.8
1931	27,711	25	1,108.4
1932	3,735	11	339.5

Note: The following won-loss records include both “non-league” and “league” games. Attendance records for Hilldale Park are for Saturday and Holiday games only. Thursday games and preseason games are not included in these totals. Some games include estimates for fan attendance.

These records represent the research of Neil Lanctot and appeared in his book Fair Dealing and Clean Playing: The Hilldale Club and the Development of Black Professional Baseball, 1910-1932. It is important to note that John Drew owned the Hilldale team from 1930-1932.

Leading Players Signed by Bolden to Play for Philadelphia Stars

Player	Position	Year (s)
Gene Benson	OF	1938-1948
Chet Brewer	P	1939, 1941
Barney Brown	P	1943-1949
Larry Brown	C	1936-1938
George "Tank" Carr	1B, OF	1934
Clifford Carter	P	1933
Oscar Charleston	Mgr, Coach	1941-1944, 1948-1950
James "Buster" Clarkson	SS, OF, 2B	1946-1950
Phil Cockrell	P	1934
Herbert "Rap" Dixon	OF	1933
Bill Holland	P	1937
Clarence "Fats" Jenkins	OF	1940
Stuart "Slim" Jones	P	1934-1938
Henry Kimbro	OF	1943
Lester Lockett	OF	1941
Dick Lundy	SS	1933
Raleigh "Biz" Mackey	C, 1B	1933-1935
Verdell "Lefty" Mathis	P	1943
Webster McDonald	P, Mgr	1933-1940
Ted Page	OF	1935-1937
George "Tubby" Scales	INF, OF	1940
Paul "Jake" Stephens	SS	1933-1935
Leroy "Satchel" Paige	P	1946, 1950
Roy "Red" Parnell	OF	1936-1943
Roy Partlow	P	1947-1948
Norman "Turkey" Stearnes	OF	1936
Ed Stone	OF	1937, 1944-1945
Roy Welmaker	P	1939-1940
Jim West	1B	1940-1945
Chaney White	OF	1933-1935
Marvin Williams	2B	1943-1945, 1949
Jud Wilson	3B, 1B	1933-1939
Bill Yancey	SS	1936
Laymon Yokely	P	1937

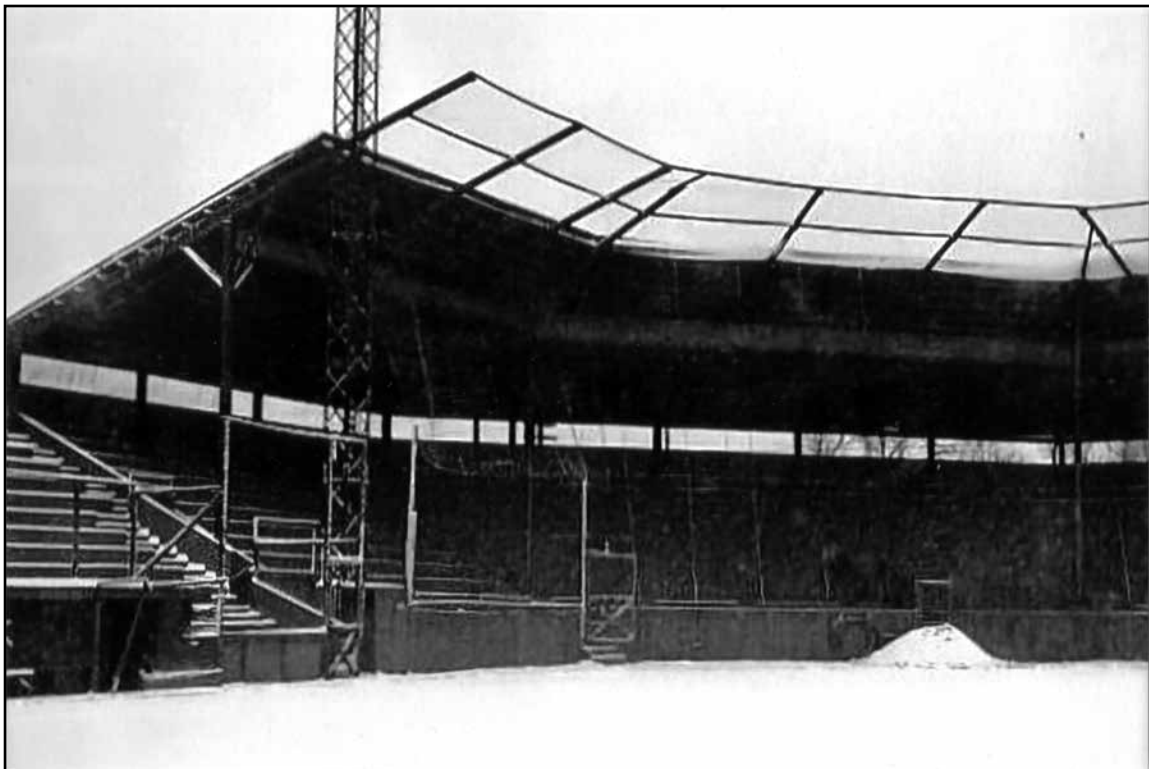


Shibe Park
Philadelphia (PA)

Philadelphia Stars – Yearly Records

Year	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
1933	19	12	0	.613
1934	25	13	0	.658
1935	29	28	0	.509
1936	25	30	0	.435
1937	25	27	0	.481
1938	30	24	0	.556
1939	31	32	0	.492
1940	30	44	0	.405
1941	13	29	0	.310
1942	21	17	0	.553
1943	26	28	0	.481
1944	21	18	0	.538
1945	21	19	0	.525
1946	27	29	0	.482
1947	26	31	0	.456
1948	27	29	0	.482
1949	31	38	0	.449
1950	15	28	1	.349

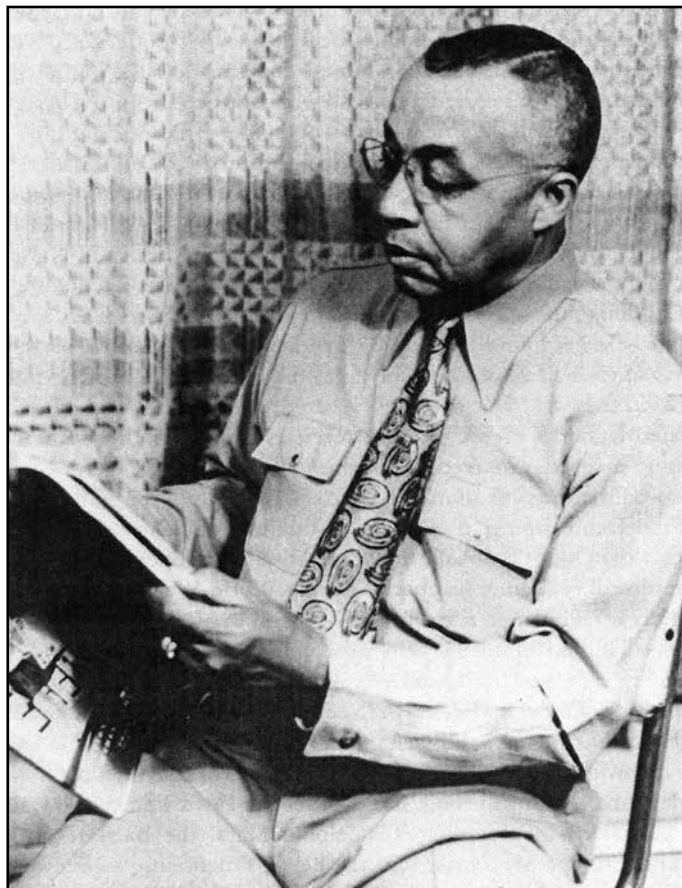
Note: The record for the Philadelphia Stars in 1933 when they played an independent schedule is only partially complete. The records for the Philadelphia Stars for the years 1934-1950 that are presented here are for “league” games only when Philadelphia played in the Negro National League from 1934-1948 and the Negro American League from 1949-1950.



Parkside Park
Home of the Philadelphia Stars

Selected Career Highlights

- In 1920 Hilldale defeated the Brooklyn Royal Giants for the unofficial title of “Colored Champions of the East.”
- In 1921 Hilldale defeated the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants for the unofficial title of “Colored Champions of the East.”
- In 1921 Hilldale defeated the Chicago American Giants (Negro National League champions) in an unofficial “championship” series.
- Helped form the Philadelphia Baseball Association (PBA) in February of 1922.
- Bolden was the only African American elected to the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Board of Governors.
- Founded the Eastern Colored League (ECL) on December 22, 1922.
- Ed Bolden’s Hilldale Club won the Eastern Colored League title in 1923, 1924 and 1925.
- Hilldale wins the Philadelphia Baseball Association (PBA) title in 1923.
- Hilldale enjoyed its best season in 1925 when they went 52-15 (.776) in Eastern Colored League play.
- Hilldale defeated Kansas City to win the 1925 Negro League World Series.
- Bolen’s Hilldale team won the Interstate League title in 1926.
- In January of 1929 was instrumental in the founding of the American Negro League (ANL).
- In their first year (1934) as a member of the Negro National League, his Philadelphia Stars team won the Negro National League championship.
- Replaced Gus Greenlee as the President of the Negro National League in 1936.
- Served as Vice President of the Negro National League from 1939 through 1944.
- Ed Bolden was one of the top executives in the history of Negro League Baseball.

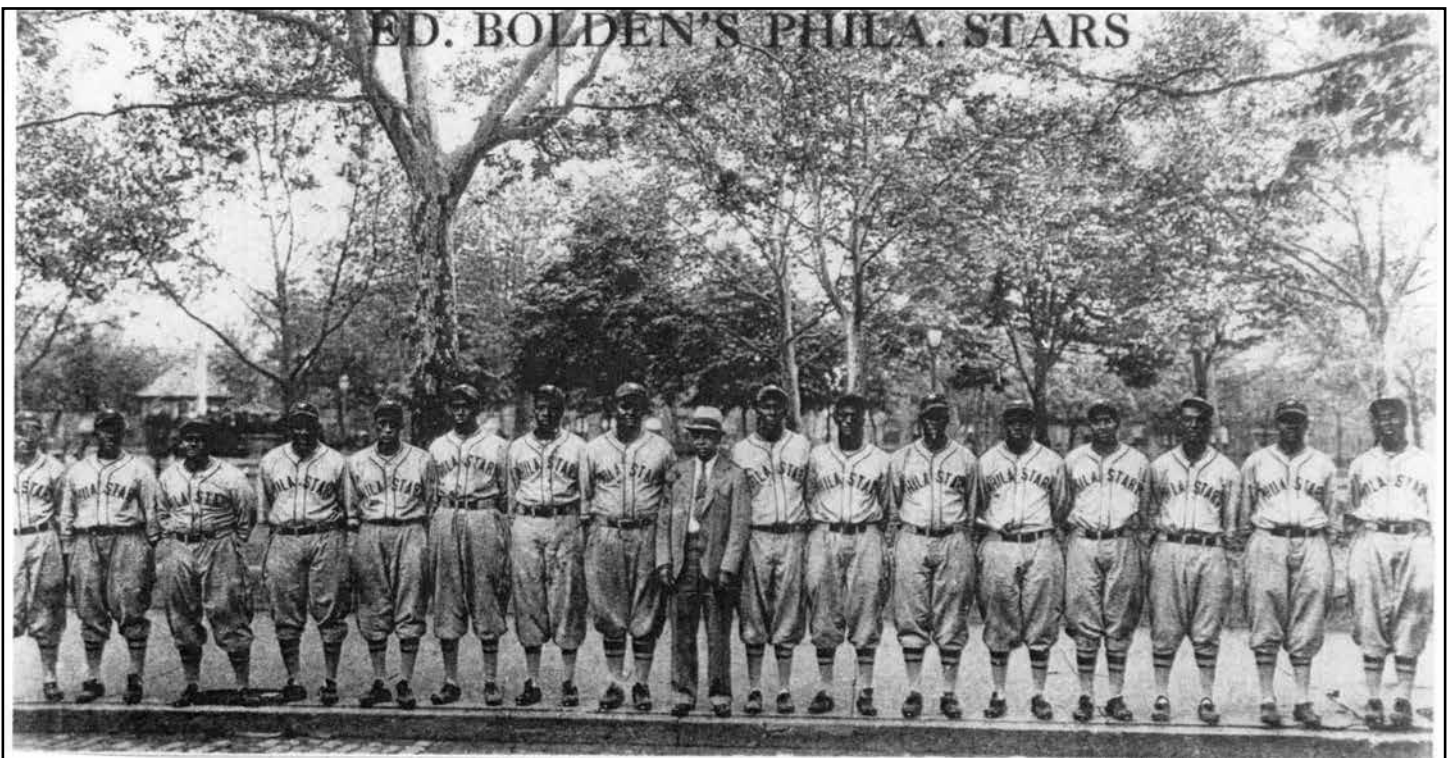


Edward Bolden
(1881-1950)

Ed Bolden's Philadelphia Stars

After being ousted by Hilldale before the start of the 1930 season, Ed Bolden was out of professional baseball until 1933 when he and Eddie Gottlieb formed the Philadelphia Stars. Gottlieb, who was a white booking agent, provided the financial backings and booked the games. Bolden's extensive baseball contacts enabled him to sign an impressive roster for the Philadelphia Stars.

The Philadelphia Stars played their first season as an independent team. Bolden and Gottlieb's plan was to enter the Stars in the Negro National League for the 1934 season. Their plan worked to perfection as the Philadelphia Stars won the Negro National League championship in their first year in the "league."



**Philadelphia Stars
(1933)**

(Standing left to right – Paul “Jake” Stephens, Herb Smith, William “Mickey Casey, **Jud “Boojum” Wilson**, Peter Washington, Allen, Porter Charleston, **Raleigh “Biz” Mackey**, **Ed Bolden**, Paul Carter, **Herbert “Rap” Dixon**, **Dick Lundy**, **Chaney White**, William “Eggie” Dallard, Clifford Carter, **Webster McDonald** and Tom Finley.)