

Forgotten Heroes: Hurley McNair



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

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Hurley McNair Joins the Chicago American Giants

Before the start of the 1915 baseball season, Hurley McNair was signed by Rube Foster, owner and manager of the Chicago American Giants, to replace Jude Gans who had returned east to play for the New York Lincoln Stars. When he joined the team, McNair immediately became the team's starting left fielder and batted fourth in the line-up.



Chicago American Giants (1915)

Western Tour
Golden West Hotel
Portland OR
April 1, 1915

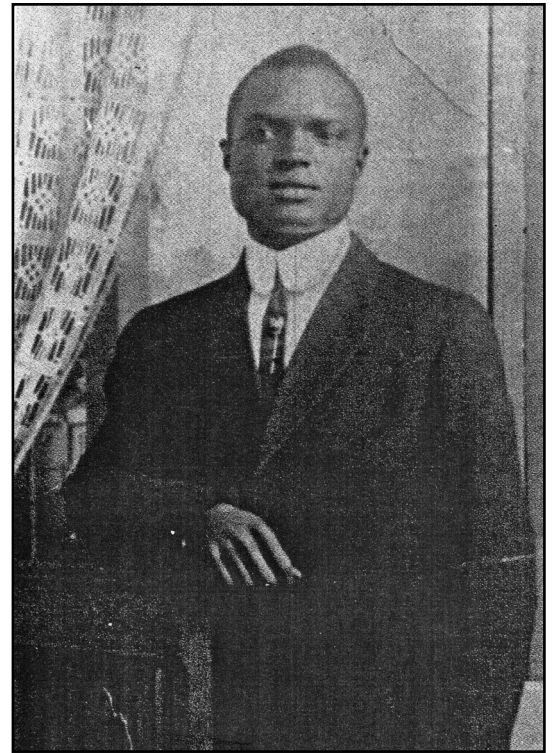
(Standing left to right – Bill Gatewood, **Hurley McNair**, Dick Whitworth, **Pete Hill**, **Bruce Petway**, Harry Bauchman, Walter Ball, Fred Hutchinson, Pete Duncan, **Louis Santop** (behind Duncan), **Rube Foster**, Horace Jenkins, Frank Wickware, Bill Francis and Jesse Barber.)

Hurley Allen Mc Nair was born on October 28, 1888 in Marshall, Texas. He honed his baseball skills on the sandlots in Texas before turning professional.

He stood about 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighed approximately 150 pounds during his playing career. According to Negro League researchers Larry Lester and Dick Clark, Hurley was a switch hitter who threw right handed. Other researchers, however, identify Hurley McNair as a left handed hitter who also threw left handed.

Mc Nair started his career as a pitcher but his outstanding hitting resulted in him being transitioned to an outfielder in order to keep his bat in the line-up everyday. He had excellent control and was very successful as a pitcher which was evidenced early in his career when in his 23 starts for the 1911 Minneapolis Keystones he had 21 complete games, 58 strikeouts and only 18 walks in 189 innings pitched. He also compiled a won-loss record of 15-7.

Hurley was an excellent contact hitter who always delivered in the clutch. McNair was said to have possessed keen eye sight, strong wrists, big shoulders and exceptional bat speed. Opponents and teammates often referred to him as a pint sized dynamo because he had surprising power for a small man. During his playing career Hurley consistently batted over .300. Besides being a great hitter, Hurley was also very adept at drawing a walk. He led the Negro National League at least twice in walks and was always among the “league” leader in base on balls.



Hurley McNair
1888-1948

According to players who played with and against him, Hurley McNair was known as “the best two-strike hitter in baseball.” George Giles (a teammate of McNair’s in 1927) was once quoted as saying the following about Hurley’s ability to hit with a two strike count on him:

“Mac could have taken two strikes against Jesus Christ and base hit the next pitch.”

Defensively he was considered an exemplary outfielder with a strong arm and excellent speed. With exceptional speed and smart base running skills, he was always a threat to take the extra base, steal a base or score on a routine base hit. In short, he was an excellent base runner with speed to burn.

Hurley McNair was one of the first big stars of the Negro National League when it started in 1920. In the first six years of the “league,” he compiled a batting average of .348 (685 for 1971) in “league” games and games against top level opponents. In each of these six seasons he hit well over .300. From 1920 through 1925 his yearly averages were as follows: 1920 (.325), 1921 (.344), 1922 (.374), 1923 (.332), 1924 (.353) and 1925 (.360).

For more than a quarter of a century Hurley McNair was one of the best outfielders in black baseball. His professional baseball career started in 1910 with the Houston Black Buffaloes and he played his last professional game in 1937 for the Cincinnati Tigers. Even though he is best remembered for his career with the Kansas City Monarchs (1920-1927 and 1934), he also played for the following teams: Minneapolis Keystones, Chicago Giants, Chicago Union Giants, Chicago American Giants, Buffalo Soldiers Wreckers, All Nations, John Donaldson’s All Stars, Gilkerson’s Union Giants and the Cincinnati Tigers.

McNair was also considered an excellent student of the game. George Sweatt and George Giles who both played with him when they were with the Kansas City Monarchs had the following to say about Hurley in interviews with Negro League historian and researcher, John Holway:

“He’d take you to his room and tell us the different plays, how to play the position and what men to watch. Every man in the league, he knew him.” (George Sweatt)

“Hurley McNair was a hell of a hitter. He gave me a few ideas about shifting and standing different on different pitchers.” (George Giles)

Hurley also appears to have been very willing to work with young players to improve their game. He is credited with teaching Willie Wells (Negro League great and member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame) to hit a curve ball by tying his leg to home plate so that he couldn’t bail out on the pitch. Willie Wells described the experience as follows:

“A boy named Hurley McNair from Kansas City I give him a lot credit for teaching me how to become a hitter. I still couldn’t hit the curve. When they’d break that ball and I’d see it breaking I’d just pull too much. Well, he took my left leg and tied it at home plate and they threw me curve balls, curve balls and more curve balls. When I came back to St. Louis the following year, they were throwing me those curve balls and I was burning them up, I was burning them up. Every time they’d break a curve ball, I’d hit it on a line somewhere, up against the fence or between the fielders.”

Early Baseball Career

The earliest documentation found up to this date for Hurley McNair playing professional baseball is in 1910 when he was the ace of the Houston Black Buffaloes pitching staff. He most assuredly played professional baseball before 1910 because he was already 22 years old. Further research still needs to be conducted to identify where he played before 1910.

In 1910 the Houston Black Buffaloes were one of the best black teams in the southwest. Other top African-American teams in the southwest during this time were Beaumont, Dallas Black Giants, Fort Worth Black Cats, Galveston, Oklahoma City Monarchs, San Antonio Black Bronchos and Tulsa. During the 1910 baseball season the Minneapolis Keystones from South Minneapolis, Minnesota went on a barnstorming tour of Texas. They were led by Bill Gatewood who was the captain of the team and one of their starting pitchers. While playing a series against the Houston Black Buffaloes at Monarch Stadium in Houston (TX), Hurley Mc Nair pitched for the Black Buffaloes against the Keystones. Minneapolis management quickly recognized Hurley Mc Nair’s baseball talent and signed him to go back north with them when they returned home to Minnesota. Also signed by Minneapolis was Mc Nair’s catcher, James Wills. When Hurley joined the Keystones he immediately became one of the team’s starting pitchers along with Clarence Lytle, Bill Gatewood and Charles Jackson.

During the remainder of the 1910 season with Minneapolis, Hurley Mc Nair went 3-2 (.600) on the mound and played right field when he wasn’t pitching. Hurley’s complete batting statistics for the Keystones have not all been uncovered, but five (5) box scores have been found with Hurley playing in the outfield for the Keystones. Mc Nair went 7 for 17 for a .412 batting average in these five contests. He had one double and one stolen base in these four games. In the five games he started as a pitcher for Minneapolis he hurled four complete games with one shut out.

The complete season won-loss record for the 1910 Minneapolis Keystones is not known exactly. However, twenty-nine (29) box scores and line scores have been found for them for the 1910 season. Minneapolis went 18-11 (.620) in these games.

Hurley McNair also played at least one game for the St. Paul Gophers in 1910. The Gophers were the Keystone's strongest rival in Minnesota. St. Paul was managed by both the legendary William Binga and James Taylor during the season. Newspaper accounts credit St. Paul with a record of 104-27 (.794) for the 1910 season. In the one box score that has been found for Hurley playing for the St. Paul Gophers, he went one for one with a stolen base.



Nicollet Park
Home of the Minneapolis Keystones
Minneapolis, MN

Mc Nair returned to the Minneapolis Keystones for the start of the 1911 season. Hurley quickly became the ace of the team's pitching staff and recorded a 12-7 (.632) won-lost record for the Keystones through the summer of 1911 with 18 complete games in 20 starts. Two of these outings were shut outs. It is interesting to note that newspaper accounts credit Hurley with winning over 20 games for Minneapolis during the 1911 season. McNair was also the team's leading hitter during the season with a .355 batting average and a .635 slugging percentage. One of the highlights of the season for Hurley McNair occurred on May 14th when he pitched the Keystones to an 8-3 victory over the Louisville Cubs in Spring Branch Park and hit three (3) homeruns in the game to support his pitching effort. Box scores have been found for 18 games that Hurley played for the Keystones in 1911. His batting statistics for these games are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1911	Minneapolis	18	76	12	27	6	3	3	-	7	.355	.632

Hurley's pitching statistics for 1911 with the Minneapolis Keystones are as follows:

Year	Team	Complete		Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA	SH
		Games	Games									
1911	Minneapolis	21	18	162	12	7	-	-	18	58	-	2

Baseball historians consider Hurley McNair as the finest player to ever wear a Minneapolis Keystones uniform. During the 1911 season the team was managed by Col. Edward F. Mitchell and Jeff Briscoe served as the captain of the team as well as playing centerfield. Harry Bauchman (.326), Jesse Briscoe (.285) and Bert Woods were the team's other leading hitters besides Hurley McNair.

From box scores and line scores that have been found up to this date, the Minneapolis Keystones had a record of 31-28-1 (.524) for the 1911 season when the team folded late in the summer.

After the Keystones disbanded Hurley went to Chicago (IL) where he hooked up with the Kansas City Giants who were in town to play a series against the Chicago American Giants. On September 16th while pitching for Kansas City, Mc Nair out dueled Rube Foster and the Chicago American Giants for ten (10) innings for a victory over the best team in the West. Then in October Hurley pitched seven (7) scoreless innings allowing only one hit against the Kansas City Blues of the American Association before the game was called due to darkness. In two box scores that have been found for Hurley playing in the outfield for Kansas City he went 5 for 8 with a double, two homeruns and 5 runs batted in. He also had 4 runs scored and a stolen base.

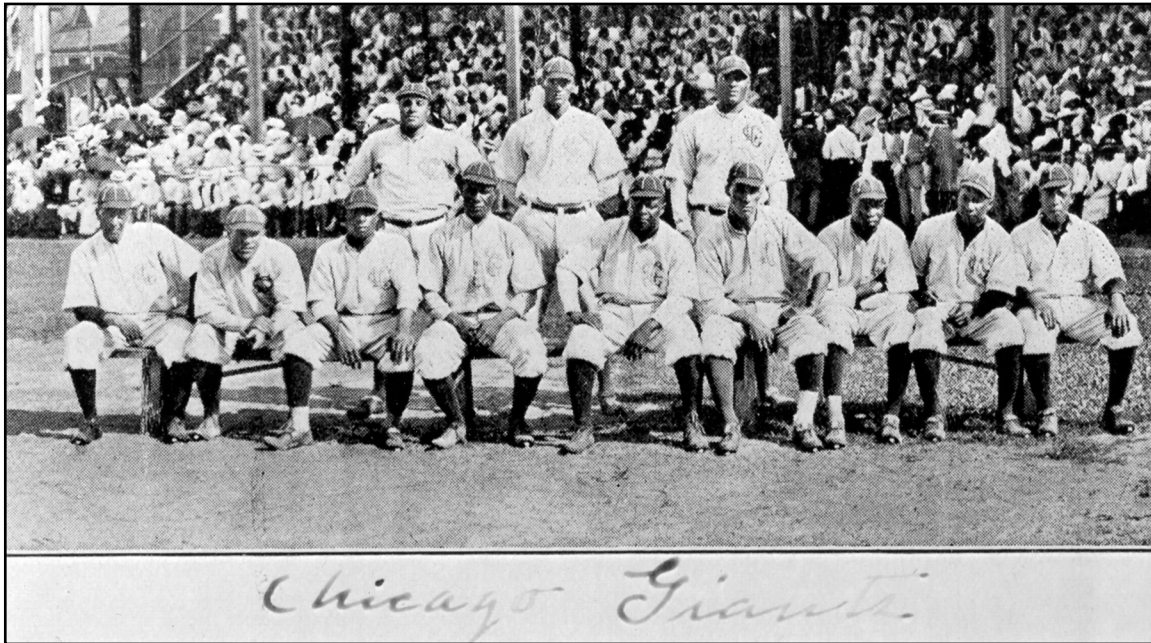


Chicago American Giants vs Chicago Giants
American Giants Ball Park
07-02-11

Hurley Mc Nair also played briefly with the Chicago Giants during the 1911 baseball season. The Chicago Giants were owned by Frank Leland and managed by Joe Green. They were founded in 1910 when Frank Leland and his partner, Rube Foster, split up the Leland Giants. Sometimes the team was also promoted as the Chicago Leland Giants until Rube Foster got a court injunction forcing Leland to stop the practice. The Chicago Giants called both Schorling Park and Gunther Park their home fields. The 1911 Chicago Giants were led by the hitting of Jess Barbour (2B), Joe Green (OF), Grant Johnson (SS), Zack Pettus (C) and Clarence “Bobby” Winston (OF). Walter Ball, Bill Gatewood and Smokey Joe Williams made up the starting rotation for Chicago.

When the 1912 season opened Hurley McNair was in the starting lineup for the Chicago Giants as their right fielder. In ten games for which box scores have been found for Hurley playing for the Giants, he went 13 for 35 for a .371 batting average. Some of the other leading players for the 1912 Chicago Giants were Guy Jackson (3B), Tim Strothers (1B), Pearl Webster (2B) and Bobby Winston (LF). The pitching staff for the Giants included Walter Ball, Sam Crawford, Johnny Goodgame and Lefty Harvey. The 1912 Chicago Giants were managed by Joe Green. They were not considered one of the top teams in the West during the 1912 season.

Some researchers list Hurley Mc Nair as having played for the Brooklyn Royal Giants during the 1912 season. From the perspective of the Center for Negro League Baseball Research this most likely is not true. Our reasoning is that the Brooklyn Royal Giants were an Eastern team and Hurley played exclusively with Western teams during this part of his career. In addition we have found primary source documentation that credits McNair with playing for the Kansas City (MO) Royal Giants in 1912 and it would be very easy to get the two teams confused because the Kansas City Royal Giants were not a nationally known team like the Brooklyn Royal Giants.



Chicago Giants (c. 1911-1912)

The Kansas City Royal Giants were an independent team that played out of Shelley Park in Kansas City (MO). The team was managed by Jack Johnson who also was the team's starting first baseman. In two box scores from the 1912 season that have been found for Hurley playing for the Kansas City Royal Giants he went 5 for 8 for a .625 batting average and a 1.500 slugging percentage. In these eight plate appearances, Hurley had a double, two homeruns, 4 runs scored, one stolen base and 5 runs batted in.

In 1913 Hurley McNair signed with William S. Peters' Chicago Union Giants. The team was also referred to as Peters Union Giants. They were a traveling team and did not have a home field. Peters owned and managed the club. McNair both pitched and played in the outfield for the 1913 Union Giants. Other top teams that competed in the West during the 1913 baseball season were the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars of Havana, French Lick Plutos, Indianapolis ABC's, St. Louis Giants and West Baden Sprudels.

McNair also played briefly with the Chicago Giants and Kansas City Giants during the 1913 season.

Hurley McNair returned to play for the Chicago Union Giants for the 1914 season. During the season McNair was the team's starting centerfielder and also pitched occasionally. McNair was the team's leading hitter during the season. Also appearing for the Union Giants in 1914 were Harry Bauchman (3B), Robert Prior (P) and Dick Whitworth (P).

McNair also briefly played for the Kansas City Royal Giants during 1914.

Before the start of the 1915 baseball season, Rube Foster, owner and manager of the Chicago American Giants, signed Hurley McNair to replace Jude Gans who had returned East to play for the New York Lincoln Stars. When Hurley joined the Chicago American Giants he became the team's starting right fielder and batted clean-up. Foster had high hopes for his team going into the 1915 season. Bill Lewis of the Indianapolis Freeman shared Rube's optimism and categorized Foster's American Giants as a "great ball club."

Chicago opened spring training in New Orleans, Louisiana on March 4th. The team only played about a half dozen games due to rainy weather conditions in the New Orleans area before they left for the Pacific Northwest to start their regular season. The American Giants were 6-0 during their exhibition games in New Orleans. On March 27th the American Giants beat the Portland

Beavers with Major League pitcher Stan Coveleski on the mound. The American Giants beat Portland by a score of 9-1. Chicago took three of the four games they played against Portland who were the reigning champions of the Pacific Coast League (PCL). Chicago's exhibition tour of the Pacific Northwest was very successful. After their domination of the Pacific League champions, the Oregonian newspaper referred to Rube Foster as "the black John McGraw." Newspaper accounts credit the Chicago American Giants with a record of 20-6 by mid-April during their tour of the West Coast.

The Chicago American Giants had a very good season in 1915. According to research reported by Paul DeBono in his book the Chicago American Giants, the team completed the 1915 season with a record of 60-17-2. They thoroughly dominated lower level teams and took the vast majority of their losses against top level competition.

During the 1915 season the American Giants were led by the hitting of Jud Gans (.328), John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.314), Hurley McNair (.311), Horace Jenkins (.268), Jess Barber (.257) and Pete Hill (.255). Rube Foster had a strong pitching staff that included: Dick Whitworth (7-6), Frank Wickware (5-6), Sam Crawford (4-1), Tom Johnson (4-4), Horace Jenkins (3-0) and Bill Gatewood (3-5).

Even though Gans and Lloyd had higher batting averages than McNair for the season, they weren't starters. Hurley McNair's hitting statistics against top level teams for the 1915 season was:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1915	Chicago	53	196	35	61	9	3	1	48	3	.311	.388

One of Chicago's better games during the season was a 9-0 victory over the Milwaukee Sox who were the champions of the Lake Shore League with a record of 31-10. Dick Whitworth pitched the shut out and Hurley McNair had three hits against their powerful "white" opponent. The game was played on April 29th at Schorling Park before six thousand fans.

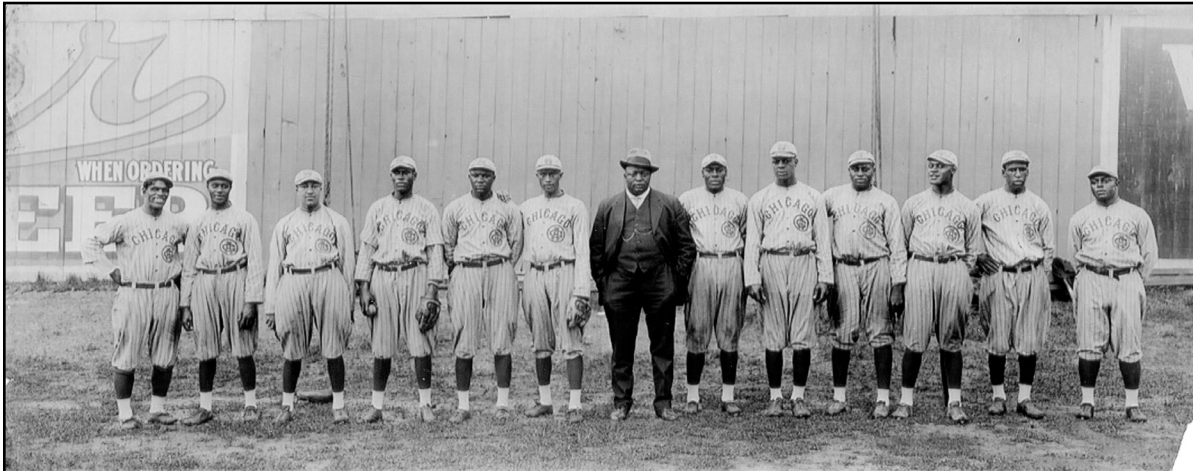
The highlight of the 1915 season for the Chicago American Giants occurred in late July and early August when they played the New York Lincoln Stars in Chicago for the "Colored Championship of the World." The first game of the series was played on July 31st with the American Giants taking an 11-3 victory behind the pitching of Frank Wickware. The series went back and forth with the Lincoln Stars taking the second game of a double header on August 10th to claim the title. Rube Foster disagreed with the outcome because from his perspective the final game was called after only four innings. McNair had a decent series at the plate going 8 for 29 for a .276 batting average. He also scored four runs and had five runs batted in.

Hurley played with the Chicago American Giants until the first part of October of 1915. He did not go with the team when they went to California to play in the California Winter League and was not with the team when they went to Cuba during the winter of 1915-16.

At the end of the 1915 season, the Chicago American Giants lost their position as best team in the West to C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABC's.

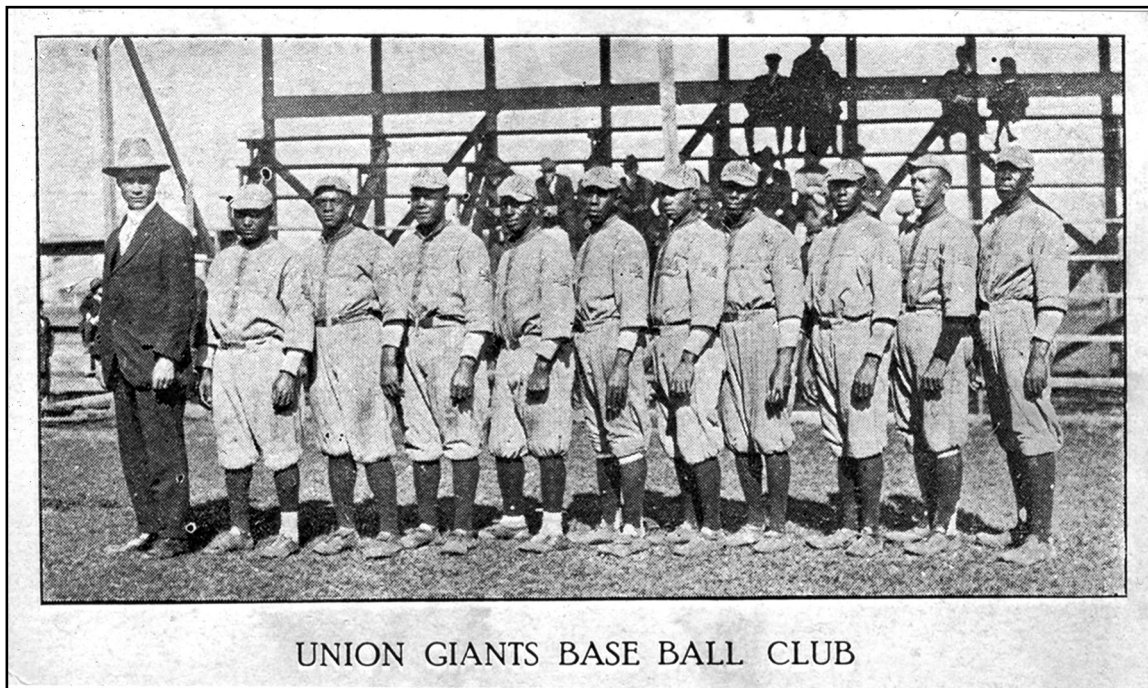
When the 1916 season started, Hurley was back in the starting line-up for the Chicago American Giants. The 1916 Chicago American Giants were managed by Rube Foster. They were led by the hitting of John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.336), Jess Barbour (.313), Pete Hill (.304), Frank Duncan (.294) and Leroy Grant (.278). The American Giants were led by the pitching of Tom Johnson (14-4), Dick Whitworth (12-3), Frank Wickware (6-7) and Jude Gans (4-1). Sam Crawford, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, Rube Foster and Juan Padron also pitched for Chicago during the season.

From newspaper accounts it appears Hurley McNair only played briefly with the American Giants during the first part of the 1916 season.



Chicago American Giants (1916)
(McNair – standing first on right)

William S. Peters, owner of the Chicago Union Giants, recruited Hurley McNair to play for his Union Giants from early July to mid September of 1916. The Chicago Union Giants were one of the weaker teams in the West during the 1916 season. The team was led by the hitting of William “Bingo” Bingham and pitching of Edgar Burch.



Chicago Union Giants
(McNair – standing –second from left)

Before the start of the 1917 season Robert P. Gilkerson, the “new” owner of the Union Giants (who were now based of Spring Valley, Illinois), and William “Bingo” Bingham (former manager of the Chicago Union Giants) went to Arnold’s Park in northern Iowa and formed a new team who were called the Lost Island Giants. Arnold’s Park was a potentially good choice to locate a team because it had been a popular recreational area since 1889 because of its close

proximity to five lakes. Gilkerson and Bingham's idea was to make the Lost Island Giants a resort based team to entertain the well-to-do vacationers much like the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Breakers Hotel (Florida), Havana Red Sox (Watertown, NY), Royal Poinciana Hotel (Florida) and the West Baden Sprudels. The team took its name from the close by Lost Island Lake.

The roster of the Lost Island Giants was made up largely of former players from the Union Giants. Among those players who joined the Lost Island Giants was Hurley McNair who immediately became the team's starting center fielder. The team met with a certain measure of success as was witnessed by the 4,000 fans that filled the stands at Arnold's Park baseball stadium to see the Lost Island Giants play the Tennessee Rats in late June.

The historically important aspect about this stop in McNair's career is that this is close to where (Palo Alto County, IA) Hurley registered for the World War I draft. McNair's place of residence is listed on his draft registration card as Ruthven, Iowa which was where the Giants team lived during their stay in northern Iowa.

Hurley McNair also played for J.L. Wilkinson's All Nations club both at the beginning and the end of the 1917 baseball season. The All Nations team was a professional barnstorming team that toured the Midwest primarily from 1912 to 1918. Wilkinson did resurrect the team for the 1923 and 1924 seasons to serve as a reserve squad for his Kansas City Monarchs. With John Donaldson as the team's manager the All Nations squads of 1923-1924 found significant success. The team was originally founded by the Hopkins Brothers Sporting Goods stores. The team derived its name from the promotional gimmick of fielding a roster that included players from several nationalities (whites, blacks, Latins, Indians, Hawaiian and Orientals). J.L. Wilkinson had played for the team and managed the team before eventually becoming the team's owner. Wilkinson's All Nations team traveled in a \$ 25,000 Pullman car which also carried portable bleachers that could be set up before a game.

The All Nations team always had a reputation for fielding a very competitive squad. Besides Hurley McNair, the 1917 All Nations roster also included Edgar Burch, John Donaldson, Bill Drake, Jimmie Lyons, Jose Mendez, Wilber "Bullet" Rogan and Cristobal Torriente. Some of the other great Negro League players who played for the All Nations over the years included: Newt Allen, William Bell and Sam Crawford.

McNair Becomes a Buffalo Soldier

World War I had a significant negative impact on black baseball in the United States. Some of the top players who were lost to the war effort included the following: Oscar Charleston, Mortie Clark, Dizzy Dismukes, Jim Jeffries, Dicta Johnson, Jimmie Lyons, Spottswood Poles, Dick Redding and Louis Santop.

It is unclear if or where Hurley McNair played professional baseball in 1918.

In 1918 Hurley McNair joined the United States Army and was assigned to the 25th Infantry Regiment which was comprised wholly of African American soldiers. The 25th Regiment was founded in 1869 and was one of four all-black regiments in the United States Army (25th Infantry, 24th Infantry, 9th Cavalry and 10th Cavalry). These units are more widely known as the "Buffalo Soldiers." Over the years the Buffalo Soldiers were an integral part of the United States Army and distinguished themselves on the field of battle everywhere they served. The Buffalo Soldiers served in the United States, Hawaii, Cuba, Philippines and Mexico.

The 25th Infantry Regiment baseball team was known as the "Wreckers." Upon the request of Colonel Andrew S. Burt, the Wreckers baseball team was formed in 1894 by Master Sergeant Dalbert P. Green in Missoula, Montana. Colonel Burt believed the baseball team would improve morale and relieve boredom on the frontier. On January 15, 1913 the Buffalo Soldiers were

transferred to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. It was in Hawaii under the leadership of Green and behind the play of Wilber “Cap” Rogan (later to be known in the Negro Leagues as “Bullet Joe”) that the Wreckers developed their dominating style of play. The Wreckers quickly became a dominant force in amateur and military baseball. The primary reasons they were so dominating was that they recruited and paid soldiers to play baseball. In an article that appeared in the Honolulu Commercial Advertiser (July 18, 1915), Lt. Charles Wyman of the 25th Infantry Regiment was quoted as saying: “Certainly our ball players are professionals,” he says, “They received pay for playing.” This practice did cause problems according to the article in the Honolulu newspaper. Other teams stationed at Schofield Barracks wanted the Army to stop paying the Wreckers players and allowing them to be exempt from guard duty and fatigue duty. But the success of the Wreckers baseball team won out and they continued to receive pay for playing baseball and special privileges. The Wreckers also continued to win ball games and before long their games were reported in black newspapers all over the country.

In 1918 the 25th Infantry Regiment was transferred to Fort Huachuca and then assigned to Camp Stephen Little in Nogales, Arizona on the Arizona-Mexico border. The Buffalo Soldiers assignment in Arizona was to patrol the border and protect settlers from Mexican bandits. The Wreckers took with them to Arizona their dominating style of baseball. With World War I over and conflicts on the Mexican border limited, the Wreckers had more time to play baseball and run track. It was at Fort Huachuca and Camp Stephen Little that Hurley McNair joined the 25th Infantry Regiment. Immediately upon joining his unit he became a starting member of the Wreckers baseball team. Unfortunately it appears that there was only minimal coverage of the Buffalo Soldiers baseball schedule reported by the news media.

During his military service with the Buffalo Soldiers in Arizona, McNair played with future Negro National League ball players: Andy Cooper, Bob Fagan, Lemuel Hawkins, Oscar “Heavy” Johnson and Wilber “Bullet” Rogan.



25th Infantry Regiment Wreckers

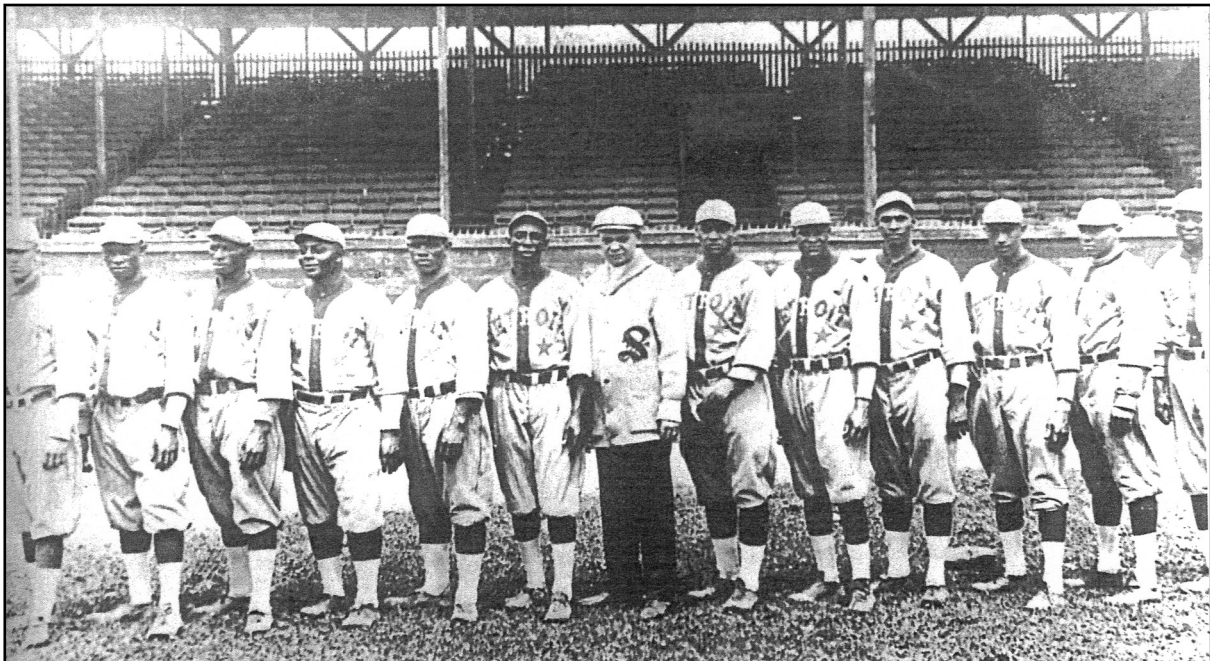
(Back row: unknown, unknown, unknown, Bob Fagan, **Andy Cooper**, **Hurley McNair** and Army Officer
Front row: **Dobie Moore**, **Bullet Rogan**, Lemuel Hawkins, unknown and **Oscar “Heavy” Johnson**.)

An unconfirmed story has it that after a game in 1919 between the Wreckers and an all star team headed up by Casey Stengel (star outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates and later Hall of Fame Manager for the New York Yankees), Stengel recommended several members of the 25th Regiment baseball team to J. L. Wilkinson who was forming a new team to be based in Kansas City. The Wreckers did play a series of games against Stengel's K.C. All Stars, but no documentation has been uncovered to confirm that this event led to several of the Wreckers signing with Wilkinson. The Kansas City team was being formed by Wilkinson to play in the inaugural season of the Negro National League. Wilkinson recruited several members of the Wreckers to join the best players from his All Nations baseball team and several Cuban players (including legendary Jose Mendez) to form the Kansas City Monarchs. In order for the Buffalo Soldiers to play for the Monarchs, they first had to get out of the Army. Rumor has it that McNair and several other Wreckers each paid \$ 150.00 to get out of the military.

From 1916 to 1922 the Wreckers team included sixteen players who would go on to play in the Negro National League when it was formed in 1920. The following Wreckers signed with the Kansas City Monarchs for the 1920 season: Bob Fagan, Lemuel Hawkins, Walter "Dobie" Moore, Wilber "Bullet" Rogan, Hurley Mc Nair and William Linder (Lightner). Oscar "Heavy" Johnson and Branch Russell would join the Kansas City Monarchs in 1922. William "Big C" Johnson signed with the Dayton Marcos and Andy Cooper went with the Detroit Stars. The trio of Fred Goliath, Ward (first name unknown) and White (first name unknown) played for the Chicago Giants.

It is unclear exactly when Hurley left the service, but we do know that he played several games for the Chicago Union Giants from July to late September of 1919.

Hurley McNair also played for the Detroit Stars in 1919. Like the Union Giants, the Detroit Stars also played an independent schedule during the season. The Detroit Stars were considered one of the best teams in the West in 1919. John "Tenney" Blount, owner of the Stars, was a good friend of Rube Foster and was aware of Foster's plan to form the Negro National League for the 1920 season. Blount was building a team that he hoped would be a competitive force in the "new" league. Detroit was led by the hitting of Pete Hill (.396) and Edgar Wesley (.322). Sam Crawford (10-4), Dicta Johnson (5-3), John Donaldson (5-5), Jose Mendez (3-0) and Frank Wickware (3-2) anchored Detroit's pitching staff. Current research credits the Detroit Stars with a won-loss record of 27-14 (.659) for the 1919 season against top level teams.



Detroit Stars (1919)
(McNair - Second from Right)

Founding of the Negro National League

Prior to the start of the 1920 baseball season Rube Foster, owner of the Chicago American Giants, held a meeting of the owners of the top black teams in the West. These meetings were held on February 13 and 14, 1920 at the YMCA in Kansas City for the purpose of organizing the Negro National League. Some of the owners who attended the meeting were Andrew “Rube” Foster (Chicago American Giants), John “Tenny” Blount (Detroit Stars), Joe Green (Chicago Giants), C.I. Taylor (Indianapolis ABC’s) and J.L. Wilkinson (Kansas City Monarchs).

Researchers differ on the “league” won-loss records of the eight teams that played in the inaugural season of the Negro National League season in 1920. Presented below is the research of Larry Lester/Dick Clark and Gary Ashwill (Seamheads) for the 1920 Negro National League season. Both research groups agree in the final order of standings, but Ashwill’s group appears to have found significantly more “official” Negro National League games for the 1920 season.

Negro National League (1920)

Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark				Research by Gary Ashwill (Seamheads)			
1920	Games	Record	Pct.	1920	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	45	32-13	.711	Chicago American Giants	62	43-17-2	.710
Detroit Stars	58	35-23	.603	Detroit Stars	64	37-27	.578
Kansas City Monarchs	70	41-29	.586	Kansas City Monarchs	79	44-33-2	.570
Indianapolis ABCs	74	39-35	.527	Indianapolis ABC’s	86	44-38-4	.535
Cuban Stars	45	21-24	.467	Cuban Stars (West)	69	35-34	.507
St. Louis Giants	57	25-32	.439	St. Louis Giants	72	32-40	.444
Dayton Marcos	26	8-18	.308	Dayton Marcos	52	16-36	.308
Chicago Giants	28	4-24	.143	Chicago Giants	36	5-31	.139

(Note - The Bacharach Giants were an Associate Member of the “league” in 1920.)

Hurley McNair’s Negro League Career

J.L. Wilkinson, the owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, formed his team from the best players off his All Nations barnstorming squad, members of the 25th Infantry Regiment Wreckers baseball team and by signing several key Latin players. Legendary Cuban pitcher Jose Mendez was the team’s player-manager for the 1920 Negro National League season. Hurley McNair was one of the players Wilkinson signed from the Buffalo Soldiers baseball team.

McNair started his Negro League career off in fine fashion. He was one of the team’s starting outfielders, batted in the middle of the order and was one of the team’s leading hitters with a .325 batting average. His complete batting statistics for games in the 1920 Negro National League were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	Kansas City	78	317	63	103	20	8	4	47	13	.325	.473

During the 1920 Negro National League season, Hurley led the “league” in doubles with 20 and in triples with 8. He was also fifth in the “league” in stolen bases with 13.

Other leading hitters during the 1920 season for Kansas City were George “Tank” Carr (.332) Bartolo Portuondo (.325), John Donaldson (.320), Walter “Dobie” Moore (.317) and Bullet Rogan (.288). The Monarchs’ pitching staff was anchored by Sam Crawford (14-7), Rube Currie (12-13), Bullet Rogan (10-4), John Donaldson (5-4) and Jose Mendez (3-1).



Kansas City Monarchs (1920)
Negro National League

(Standing left to right – **John Donaldson**, Sam Crawford, Rube Currie, Jose Rodriquez, Zack Foreman, Unidentified, **George “Tank” Carr** and **Bullet Rogan**. Seated left to right – **Jose Mendez**, Unidentified, Bartolo Portuondo, **Walter “Dobie” Moore**, Otto “Jaybird” Ray and **Hurley Mc Nair**.)

The Kansas City Monarchs finished the 1920 Negro National League season with a respectable record of 44-33-2 (.570). They ended the regular season in third place in the final “league standings” behind the Chicago American Giants (43-17-2) and the Detroit Stars (37-27).

The inaugural Negro National League season was considered a huge success by team owners, the fans and the media. The Kansas City Sun reported that the Kansas City Monarchs drew 100,000 fans during the season and the “league” drew 700,000 fans.

After the regular 1920 season Negro National League season had concluded, the Kansas City Monarchs continued to play ball. In September, they played exhibition games against the Tramways, Aristas and the Omaha Armours. On October 8th and 9th Kansas City lost two games to the Stengel’s All Stars by the scores of 3-5 and 0-3. Then on October 9th they were beaten 1-0 by Bob Meusel’s All Stars.

After the 1920 season Quincy J. Gilmore, sports scribe for the Kansas City Sun, selected a Negro National League All Star team. Hurley McNair was selected as one of the three outfielders. Five other Kansas City Monarchs were named to the 1920 Negro League All Star team. They were Walter “Dobie” Moore (SS), Bartolo Portuondo (3B), George “Tank” Carr (Utility), John Donaldson (Utility) and Wilber “Bullet” Rogan (P).

The complete roster for the first ever Negro League All Star team as published in the Kansas City Sun on December 25, 1920 was as follows:

Negro National League All Star Team (1920)

Position	Player	Team
1B	Ben Taylor	Indianapolis ABC's
2B	Bingo DeMoss	Chicago American Giants
SS	Walter "Dobie" Moore	Kansas City Monarchs
3B	Bartolo Portuondo	Kansas City Monarchs
C	John Beckwith	Chicago Giants
	George "Tubby" Dixon	Chicago American Giants
OF	Jimmie Lyons	Detroit Stars
	Cristobal Torriente	Chicago American Giants
	Hurley McNair	Kansas City Monarchs
Utility	George "Tank" Carr	Kansas City Monarchs
	John Donaldson	Kansas City Monarchs
Pitcher	"Bullet" Joe Rogan	Kansas City Monarchs
	Bill Drake	St. Louis Stars

With Sam Crawford at the helm of the team, the Monarchs improved on their performance from the previous year and finished the season with a record of 50-31 (.617). They ended the season in second place just behind the league leading Chicago American Giants (50-27). During 1921 Kansas City also played a significant number of non-league games. Research by John Holway credits them with a 73-43 (.629) record when "non-league" and "league" games were combined.



Kansas City Monarchs (1921)

(Top row left to right – Rube Currie, **John Donaldson**, Frank Blattner, Sam Crawford, **George "Tank" Carr**, **Walter "Dobie" Moore**. Middle row left to right – **Bullet Rogan**, Bartolo Portuondo, Zack Foreman, **Hurley Mc Nair**, Lemuel Hawkins and Otto Ray. Front row left to right - Sylvester Foreman and Bob Fagan.)

McNair put up excellent numbers at the plate and was the team's leading hitter for the 1921 Negro National League season. His complete hitting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	Kansas City	100	392	81	135	22	11	10	83	11	.344	.533

Dobie Moore (.330), George "Tank" Carr (.324), Bartolo Portuondo (.316), John Donaldson (.294) and Bullet Rogan (.290) also contributed in the hitting department during the 1921 Negro National League season.

Rube Currie (13-8) and Bullet Rogan (12-8) led Kansas City's pitching staff in "league" play in 1921. Rogan has been credited with a record of 20-11 (.645) when games against "league" and "non-league" opponents were added together. Also pitching for the Monarchs in 1921 were Zack "Hooks" Foremen (6-4), Sam Crawford (6-6) and Cliff Bell (3-2).

After the regular 1921 season was over, the Kansas City Monarchs lost an eight game series to the Kansas City Blues of the American Association. The Blues won five of the eight games. Kansas City also played a post season exhibition game against the Major League All Stars who were led by Carl Mays and Wall Schang. The Monarchs lost the game to the "Big Leaguers" by a score of 3 to 5.



Kansas City Monarchs (1922)

(Back row left to right – George Sweatt, **Rube Currie**, Sam Crawford, William "Plunk" Drake, Frank Duncan, **George "Tank" Carr**, **Walter "Dobie" Moore**. Middle row left to right – **Oscar Johnson**, Newt Joseph, **Hurley McNair**, **Jose Mendez** and Willie Gisentaner. Front row left to right – Lemuel Hawkins and **Bullet Rogan**.)

The 1922 Kansas City Monarchs starting line-up featured an extremely productive group of hitters. Six Kansas City starters batted over .345 for the season. The Monarchs were led by the hitting of Bullet Rogan (.395 w/14 homeruns), Oscar "Heavy" Johnson (.390 w/ 13 homeruns), Walter "Dobie Moore" (.381 w/ 69 RBIs), Hurley McNair (.374 w/ 69 RBIs), Bartolo Portuondo (.349), Branch Russell (.345) and John Donaldson (.297).

Hurley McNair's complete batting statistics for the 1922 season are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1922	Kansas City	84	318	79	119	19	7	8	69	9	.374	.553

Hurley McNair also led the Negro National League in on base percentage for the 1922 Negro National League season with a .511 OBP.

Negro League researcher, John Holway credits Hurley McNair with a .420 batting average when both "league" and "non-league" games are added together.

The 1922 Monarchs' pitching staff featured Bullet Rogan (20-11), Rube Currie (19-11), Sam Crawford (11-6), Big Bill Drake (10-0), Willie Gisentaner (8-5), Hurley Mc Nair (3-0) and Jose Mendez (3-1).

With great hitting and a strong pitching staff, the Monarchs compiled a record of 47-31-2 (.600) but still finished in second place in the final 1922 Negro National League standings. They, however, were getting closer to a "league" championship. Kansas City was only a game and a half behind the Negro National League champion Chicago American Giants (37-24-1).

In October of 1922 the Monarchs played the Kansas City Blues of the American Association in a six game series for the "City Championship" of Kansas City. The Blues had an excellent team and had led the American Association in hitting with a team batting average of .315 for the 1922 season. The Monarchs thoroughly dominated their formidable "white" opponents and won the series five games to one. They had avenged their series loss from the previous season. The Kansas City Star newspaper declared the Monarchs as "The New City Champions of Kansas City."

HERE at LAST!
BASEBALL
 For Kansas City Championship
Kansas City Monarchs
 v.s.
Kansas City Blues
 AT ASSOCIATION PARK
 Nine Game Series, Beginning
Friday, Oct. 6th-7th-8th
 Continued on Oct. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19th.
Tickets on Sale Now!

Monarchs vs Blues (1922)
Kansas City Call
 09-27-22

After disposing of the Blues, the Monarchs played a two game series against the Babe Ruth All Stars. The Monarchs won both games of the double header. Kansas City easily won the first game by a score of 10-5. The score of the second game was not reported.

--BASEBALL!--
BABE RUTH & BOB MEUSEL
 Playing with an All Star Team
 vs
Kansas City Monarchs
SUNDAY, OCT. 22. 1 o'clock Sharp
 This will be the first game of a double header participated in by Ruth and MenseL.
THE LAST CHANCE TO SEE THE MONARCHS AND THE FIRST CHANCE TO SEE THE GREAT BABE.

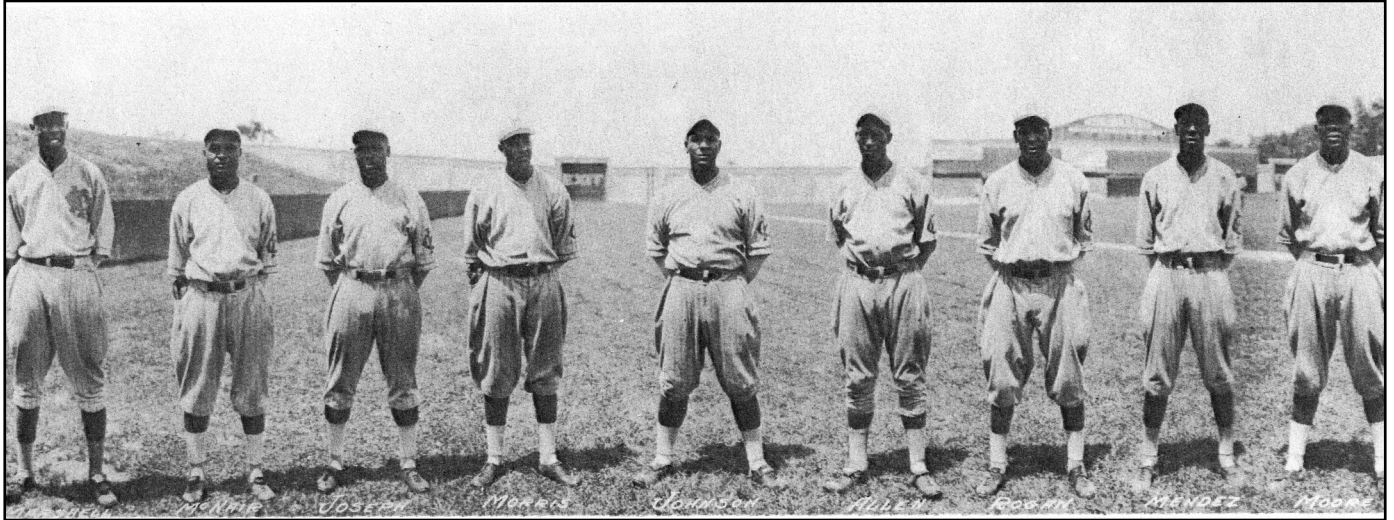
Babe Ruth All Stars vs Monarchs
Kansas City Call
 10-20-22

Hurley McNair returned to the Kansas City Monarchs for the 1923 Negro League season. The 1923 season would also be the start of the Monarchs dominance of the Negro National League. Over the next four seasons the Monarchs won Negro National League championships.

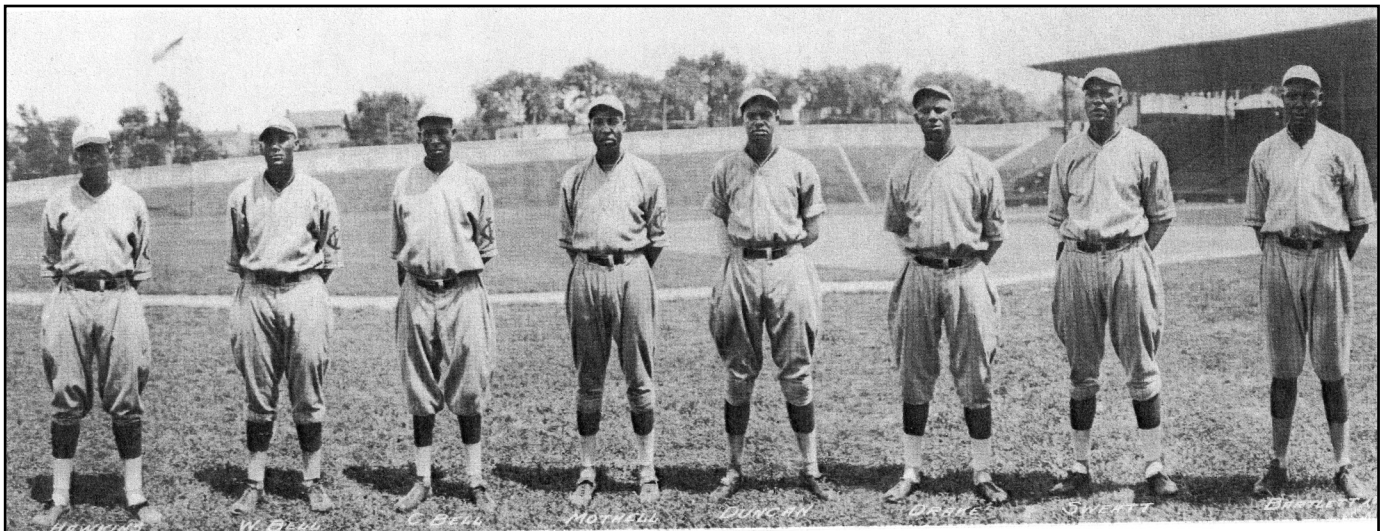
Kansas City Monarchs (1924)

**Negro National League Champions
and
Colored World Series Champions**

Muelbach Field
Kansas City, MO



(left to right - Jack Marshall, **Hurley McNair**, Newt Joseph, Harold "Yellowhorse" Morris, Oscar "Heavy" Johnson, Newt Allen, Wilber "Bullet" Rogan, Jose Mendez and Walter "Dobie" Moore)



(left to right - Lemuel Hawkins, **William Bell**, Carrol "Dink" Mothel, **Frank Duncan (Sr.)**, William "Plunk" Drake, George Sweatt and Homer Bartlett)

The 1923 Monarchs were led offensively by the hitting of Oscar “Heavy” Johnson (.406 with 20 homeruns, 120 RBIs and a .722 slugging percentage), Dobie Moore (.366 with 81 RBIs), Bullet Rogan (.364), John Donaldson (.351), Hurley McNair (.332), Wade Johnston (.332), George Sweatt (.310) and Newt Allen (.304). Hurley’s complete hitting statistics for the 1923 Negro National League season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1923	Kansas City	98	380	83	126	14	10	8	66	24	.332	.484

Rube Currie (23-11), Bullet Rogan (20-19), Jose Mendez (15-6) and Big Bill Drake (15-9) all turned in outstanding pitching performances for the 1923 season.

The Kansas City Monarchs played their home games at Association Park and Muelbach Stadium. Kansas City finished the regular season with a 57-33 (.633) record to win their first Negro National League championship. The final standings for the 1923 Negro National League season were as follows:

Negro National League (1923)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	90	57-33	.633
Chicago American Giants	70	41-29	.586
Detroit Stars	70	41-29	.586
Indianapolis ABCs	79	45-34	.570
Cuban Stars (West)	58	27-31	.466
Toledo Tigers	26	11-15	.423
St. Louis Stars	65	25-40	.385
Milwaukee Bears	46	14-32	.304
Cleveland Tate Stars	No records		
Memphis Red Sox	19	13-6	.684
	(Associate Member)		
Birmingham Black Barons	38	15-23	.395
	(Associate Member)		

(Note - The Toledo Tigers disbanded in July and the Milwaukee Bears dropped out of the league late in the season. The Cleveland Stars replaced the Toledo Tigers and Milwaukee Bears in the league.)

The Kansas City Monarchs had finally dethroned their arch rival Chicago American Giants to win their first Negro National League crown.

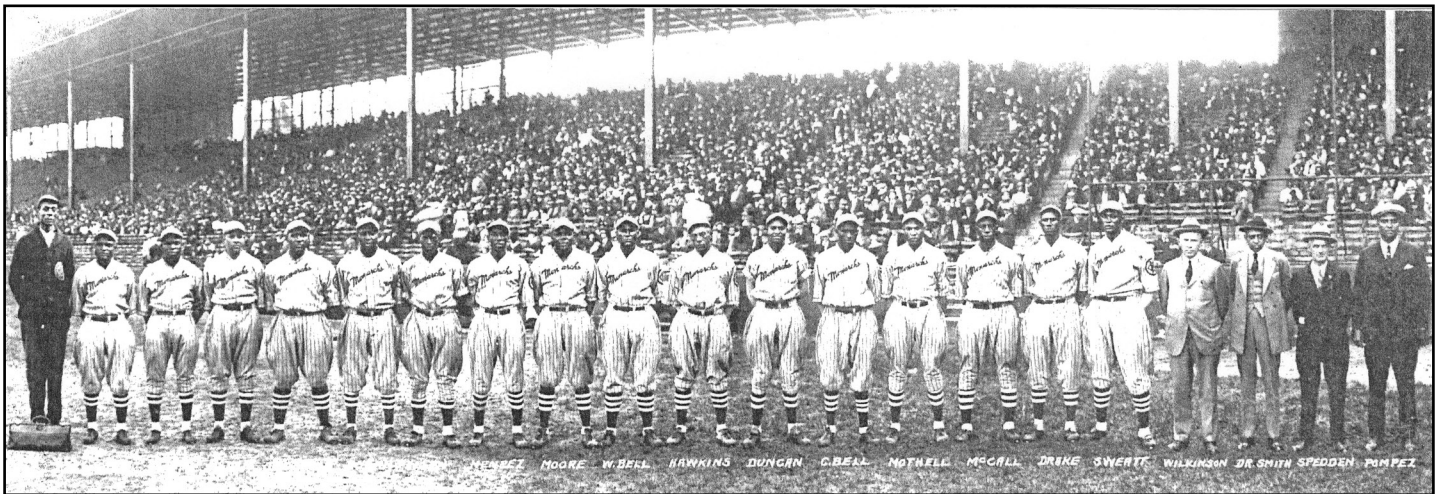
Hurley McNair was back with the Kansas City Monarchs in 1924 and had another excellent season. He had a .353 batting average and a .520 slugging average in “league” games and games against top level competition. McNair’s complete batting statistics for the 1924 Negro National League season were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1924	Kansas City	72	275	65	98	10	6	8	55	5	.353	.520

Other Monarchs hitters who had an outstanding year in 1924 included Walter “Dobie” Moore (.453), Bullet Rogan (.409), Oscar “Heavy” Johnson (.374) and Newt Joseph (.361).

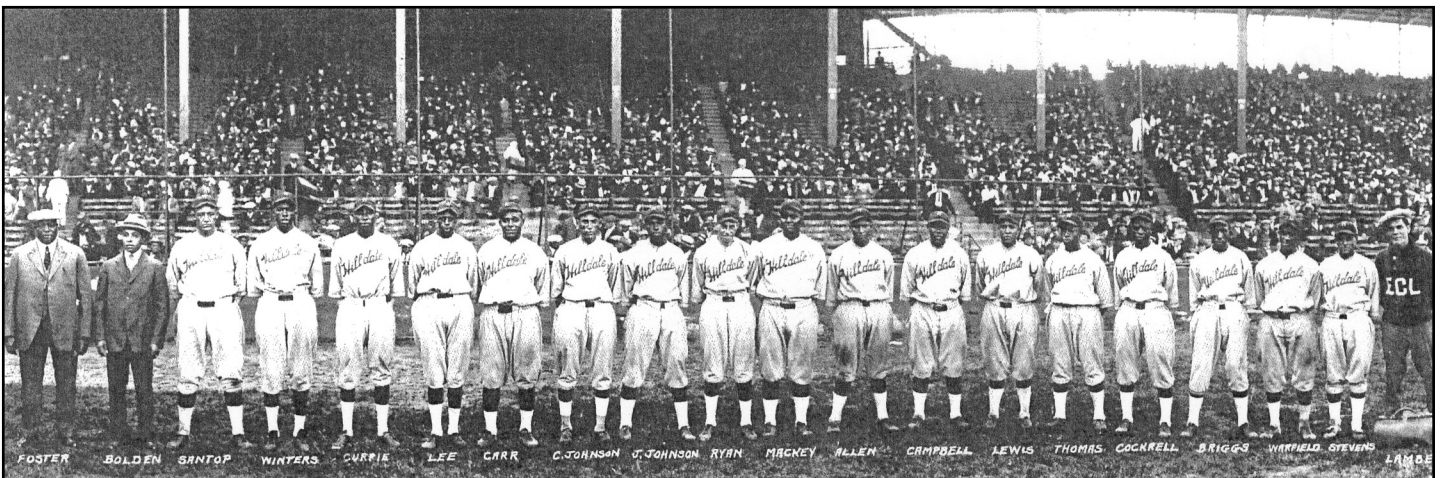
Bullet Rogan (18-6), Big Bill Drake (11-9) and William Bell (11-2) were the Monarchs’ top pitchers. Also on the Monarchs’ pitching staff were Hal “Yellowhorse” Morris (7-5), Jose Mendez (5-2), Cliff Bell (5-2) and Bill McCall (2-0). Behind an outstanding offensive attack, flawless defensive play and brilliant pitching the Monarchs won their second straight Negro National League championship with a won-loss record of 55-22 (.714).

1st Negro League World Series (1924)



Kansas City Monarchs
Negro National League Champions

(left to right – Frank Floyd, **Hurley Mc Nair**, Newt Joseph, Harold Morris, **Heavy Johnson**, **Bullet Rogan**, **Newt Allen**, **Jose Mendez**, **Dobie Moore**, **William Bell**, Lemuel Hawkins, **Frank Duncan**, Cliff Bell, Dink Mothel, William McCall, Bill Drake, George Sweatt, **J.L. Wilkinson**, Dr. William Smith, Charles Spedden and Alex Pompez)



Hilldale
Eastern Colored League Champions

(left to right – **Rube Foster**, Ed Bolden, **Louis Santop**, **Nip Winters**, **Rube Currie**, Scrip Lee, Tank Carr, George Johnson, **Judy Johnson**, Red Ryan, **Biz Mackey**, Tom Allen, William Campbell, Joe Lewis, **Clint Thomas**, Phil Cockrell, Otto Briggs, **Frank Warfield**, Jake Stephens and William “Doc” Lambert.)

The final Negro National League standings for the 1924 season were as follows:

Negro National League (1924)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	77	55-22	.714
Chicago American Giants	73	49-24	.671
Detroit Stars	66	37-29	.561
St. Louis Stars	76	42-34	.553
Memphis Red Sox	66	29-37	.439
Birmingham Black Barons	78	34-44	.436
Cuban Stars (West)	49	16-33	.327
Cleveland Browns	49	15-34	.306
Indianapolis ABCs	19	3-16	.158

(Note -The Indianapolis ABCs dropped out of the league in the first half of the season. They were replaced by the Memphis Red Sox.)

After the regular season had concluded play, the Kansas City Monarchs faced the Hilldale club from the Eastern Colored League (ECL) in the first ever Negro League World Series. In the end the Monarchs won the Negro League World Series by defeating Hilldale 5 games to 4 with 1 tie.

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

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Winning Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing 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

When the 1925 Negro National League season began, the Kansas City Monarchs picked right up where they had ended the 1924 season. With a strong batting order and excellent pitching, they won ball games. The Monarchs had six players in their starting line up that hit over .300 for the season: Bullet Rogan (.374), Hurley McNair (.360), Newt Joseph (.335), Dobie Moore (.333), Newt Allen (.307) and Wade Johnston (.304). McNair's complete statistics in 1925 were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1925	Kansas City	74	289	52	104	11	9	3	64	10	.360	.491

As always the pitching staff for Kansas City featured Wilber "Bullet Joe" Rogan. During the 1925 season, he had his best season ever as a professional with a won-loss record of 22-2 (.917). Rogan also led the league in strikeouts with 90. Nelson Dean (12-4), William Bell (10-3) and Bill Drake (10-4) rounded out the starting rotation for Kansas City.

At the end of the 1925 season the Monarchs had a record 62-23 (.730) and had won their third straight Negro National League championship. The final Negro National League standings for the 1925 season were as follows:

Negro National League (1925)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	85	62-23	.729
St. Louis Stars	98	71-27	.724
Detroit Stars	98	57-41	.582
Chicago American Giants	94	54-40	.574
Cuban Stars (West)	47	22-25	.468
Memphis Red Sox	78	30-48	.385
Birmingham Black Barons	73	24-49	.329
Indianapolis ABCs	74	17-57	.230

The Kansas City Monarchs won the first half of the season and the St. Louis Stars won the second half. Kansas City defeated St. Louis in a play-off series 6 games to 3 for the Stars. Hurley had a very good play-off series going 6 for 20 for a .300 batting average.

A summary of the 1925 Negro National League Play-Off Series between Kansas City and St. Louis is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	St. Louis	Sept 19 th	Kansas City	8-6	Bullet Rogan	Slap Hensley
2	St. Louis	Sept 20 th	St. Louis	6-3	Roosevelt Davis	Nelson Dean
3	St. Louis	Sept 23 rd	St. Louis	3-2	G. Brown	William Bell
4	Chicago	Sept 26 th	Kansas City	5-4	Bullet Rogan	Percy Miller
5	Chicago	Sept 27 th	St. Louis	2-1	G. Brown	Bill Drake
6	Chicago	-	Kansas City	9-3	William Bell	Roosevelt Davis
7	Chicago	-	Kansas City	4-0	Bullet Rogan	G. Brown

In the Negro League World Series they faced the same Hilldale club they had beaten the year before. Unfortunately for Kansas City the 1925 World Series would have a different ending. Hilldale beat the Monarchs 5 games to 1 to win the championship. The primary reason for the Monarchs defeat was that they lost their ace pitcher Bullet Rogan to an off the field accident before the series even got started.

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

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing 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

Early in the 1926 season the Kansas City Monarchs were dealt a fatal blow when they lost Walter "Dobie" Moore. As usual, Dobie had gotten off with a hot batting streak. In his first 15 "league" games he collected 22 hits in his first 53 trips to the plate for a .415 batting average and a .585 slugging percentage. On the evening of May 18, 1926 Dobie suffered an injury that would end his professional baseball career. The Monarch players rallied around Dobie on and off the field. The Kansas City Call set up a fund to help with his medical expenses and all the players pitched in to take up some of the slack on the field.

Cristobel Torriente in his first season with the Monarchs helped pick up the slack of losing Moore by posting a .348 batting average. Other Kansas City players who were productive at the plate during the 1926 season were Bill Owens (.333), Bullet Rogan (.306), Hurley McNair (.292), Dink Mothell (.292), Wade Johnston (.291), Lemuel Hawkins (.287) and Tom Young (.284).

KANSAS CITY IS NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMP:

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The Kansas City Monarchs made it two straight over the American Giants, of Chicago, winning 6 to 5 in the play-off for the National League championship.

Chicago 0 2 0 2 1 0 0 0 0—5 10 1

Kansas City 1 2 0 1 0 2 0 0 x—6 8 7

Batteries—
Harner, Curry and Hines.
W. Bell, Rogan and Duncan.

THREE STRAIGHT

KANSAS CITY.—The Kansas City Monarchs made it three straight over the Chicago Giants in the play-off in the Negro National League winning five to nothing. Brewer was given perfect support, while the Chicago infield cracked at time when most depended on it. The score by innings:

Kansas City 300 000 11x—5

Chicago 000 000 000—0

Brewer and Duncan; McDonald and Hines.

The Monarch pitchers had one of their best seasons ever in 1926. William Bell was spectacular on the mound with a 19-4 (.826) record, Chet Brewer posted an amazing 14-1 (.933) record and Bullet Rogan went 14-4 (.778) on the mound.

When the 1926 Negro National League season ended, the Kansas City Monarchs had the best won-loss record in the "league" during regular season play. The final 1926 Negro National League standings were as follows:

Negro National League (1926)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	78	57-21	.731
Chicago American Giants	80	57-23	.713
St. Louis Stars	79	49-30	.620
Detroit Stars	92	50-42	.543
Indianapolis ABCs	88	43-45	.489
Cuban Stars (West)	66	19-47	.288
Dayton Marcos	44	7-37	.159
Cleveland Elite Giants	48	7-41	.146

The Kansas City Monarchs won the first half of the season and the Chicago American Giants were the winners of the second half. They met in a play-off series for the Negro National League championship. Kansas City took an early lead winning four of the first five games.

Afro American

09-25-26

Everyone was so confident that the Kansas City Monarchs would take the Negro National League title that a Negro League World Series schedule was put together matching them against the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants who were the champions of the Eastern Colored League. The schedule was even published in the national newspapers. Unfortunately for the Monarchs, the American Giants came back to win the next four games and claim the championship. Willie Foster beat Bullet Rogan 5-0 in the deciding title game.

A summary of the 1926 Negro National League Play-Off Series between Kansas City and Chicago is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Kansas City	Sept 18 th	Kansas City	4-3	Bullet Rogan	Bill Foster
2	Kansas City	Sept 19 th	Kansas City	6-5	Bullet Rogan	George Harney
3	Kansas City	Sept 20 th	Kansas City	5-0	Chet Brewer	Webster McDonald
4	Kansas City	Sept 21 st	Chicago	4-3	Rube Currie	Jose Mendez
5	Chicago	Sept 25 th	Kansas City	11-5	Bullet Rogan	Bill Foster
6	Chicago	Sept 26 th	Chicago	2-0	Rube Currie	Chet Brewer
7	Chicago	Sept 28 th	Chicago	4-3	George Harney	Chet Brewer
8	Chicago	Sept 29 th	Chicago	1-0	Bill Foster	Bullet Rogan
9	Chicago	Sept 29 th	Chicago	5-0	Bill Foster	Bullet Rogan

Chicago then beat the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (Eastern Colored League) five games to four to win the 1926 Negro League World Series.

When the 1927 Negro National League season got underway, Hurley McNair returned to the starting line-up for the Kansas City Monarchs. The leading hitters for Kansas City during the season were Bullet Rogan (.333), Wade Johnston (.333), Newt Allen (.320), Tom Young (.296), Newt Joseph (.281) and Hurley McNair (.281). McNair's complete statistics for the season were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927	Kansas City	88	324	58	91	18	6	7	31	12	.281	.438

The starting pitching rotation for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1927 included Bullet Rogan (16-6), William Bell (13-3), George Mitchell (10-4) and Chet Brewer (8-5). Unfortunately for Kansas City the rest of the pitching staff didn't fare as well as the starters. Cliff Bell (6-10), Bill Tyler (6-8) and Butch Glass (6-13) all posted losing records for the 1927 season.


The Kansas City Monarchs were in the Negro National League pennant race all season but finished second to the Chicago American Giants at the end of the season. The final "league" standings for 1927 were:

Negro National League (1927)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	93	63-30	.677
Kansas City Monarchs	83	54-29	.651
St. Louis Stars	101	62-39	.614
Birmingham Black Barons	98	55-43	.561
Detroit Stars	99	53-46	.535
Cleveland Hornets	53	16-37	.302
Cuban Stars (West)	61	18-43	.295
Memphis Red Sox	100	27-73	.270

The Chicago American Giants defeated the Birmingham Black Barons (winners of the second half of the season) in a Play-Off Series by winning four games to none for Birmingham to win the Negro National League championship. Chicago then went on to beat the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (Eastern Colored League) 5 games to 3 to win the Negro League World Series.

A Real Game
MINERS PARK—3 P. M. TODAY



K. C. Monarchs
Former Colored Champs
of the World

vs.

Joplin All-Stars
The Pick of City League
Players

Admission:—
Adults 75c Children 25c

Probable Joplin Lineup:
Williamson, 1b; Bohanon, 2b; Bloomfield, ss; H. Pool, 3b; G. Pool, Ball, lf; Moors, Groff, cf; Ytell, rf; Rolleg, L. Corbus, c; Blunk, Scheurich, Cook, p.

This Should Be the Season's Snappiest Game!

Come Out and Root for the Home Boys!

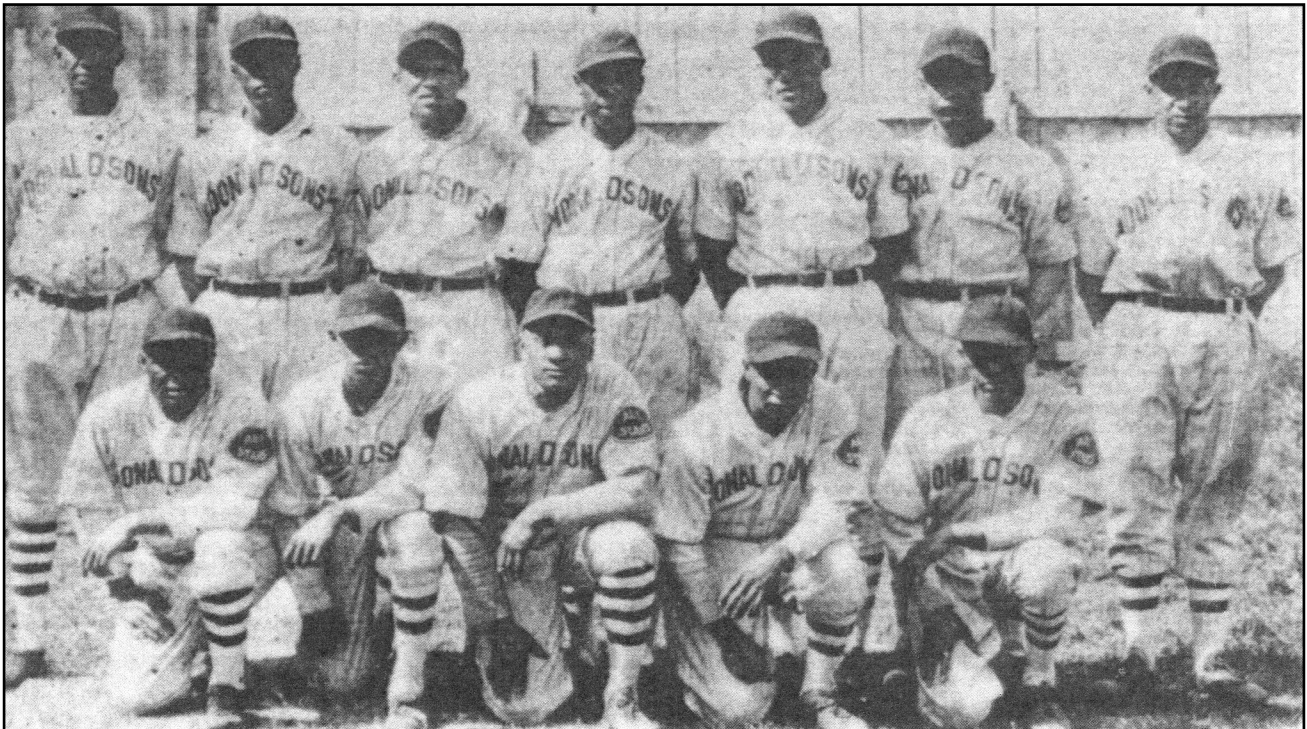
After eight seasons starring for the Kansas City Monarchs, Hurley McNair moved to the Detroit Stars for the 1928 season. It is unclear why McNair who had such a brilliant career with Kansas City left the team. The Detroit Stars were managed by Bingo De Moss and played their home games at Mack Park in Detroit. The Stars had a formidable line-up that featured the hitting of Ed "Huck" Rile (.350), Claude Johnson (.329), Norman "Turkey" Stearnes (.322 with 23 homeruns), Cristobal Torriente (.322), William "Stack" Martin (.305), Hallie Harding (.292) and Wade Johnston (.282). Unfortunately, Hurley McNair had an off season at the plate with a .273 batting average.

The pitching staff for Detroit was led by George Mitchell (13-9), Ted Shaw (12-8), Jack Marshall (11-6), Cristobal Torriente (7-3), Rube Currie (7-5) and Al Davis (5-2).

The Detroit Stars had a very good season and finished in third place in the final Negro National League standings.

Hurley McNair returned to the Gilkerson Union Giants for the 1931 season. The Union Giants fielded a strong team in 1931 that included Stubby Byas (C), Army Cooper (P), Steel Arm Davis (OF), Red Haley (2B), Dink Motherl (1B), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Alec Radcliffe (3B) and Cristobal Torriente (OF/P).

Before the start of the 1932 baseball season, John Donaldson felt it was time for him to venture out and own his very own baseball team. Donaldson based his team, the “John Donaldson’s All Stars,” out of Fairmont (MN) and played his home games on the shores of Silver Lake at Hands Park. This location was chosen because Silver Lake and Hand’s Park featured a huge amusement and recreation area. To field his roster, Donaldson signed former Negro League players Chappie Gray, Sylvester “Hooks” Foremen and Hurley McNair. In addition he signed the legendary black homerun hitter, Charlie Hancock, who was often touted as the “black Babe Ruth.” To round out the nucleus of his starting line-up Bill Freeman and Charlie Hilton were signed from the Colored House of David.



John Donaldson's All Stars (1932)

Hand's Park
Fairmont, MN

(Back row left to right – **John Donaldson**, J. Moore Allen, Cunningham, Robert “Piggy” Hawkins, Bill Freeman, Joe “Jellyroll” Barker and Buzz Boldridge. Front row kneeling left to right – **Hurley McNair**, George Jones, Chappie Gray, Charlie Hilton and Anderson.)

John Donaldson’s All Stars played an independent barnstorming schedule through the Midwest. From newspaper reports, it appears the team only lasted one season. Eight box scores have been found with Hurley McNair playing for the John Donaldson’s All Stars. In these eight games, Hurley went 14 for 33 for a .424 batting average and a .545 slugging percentage. McNair also had three extra base hits, six runs scored and six runs batted in.

In 1933 McNair played for the Arkansas City Beavers. They were a low level independent team who played out of Arkansas City, Kansas. Unfortunately, little is known about the team and no statistics are available for Hurley’s season with them.

Hurley Mc Nair Rejoins the Kansas City Monarchs

After a six year absence, Hurley McNair rejoined the Kansas City Monarchs for the 1934 season. The Monarchs were a very strong independent team that barnstormed all over the United States. Bullet Rogan was the manager of the 1934 Kansas City Monarchs.

Kansas City's roster included a star studded line-up of veteran players. The starting roster for the 1934 Kansas City Monarchs was as follows:

Kansas City Monarchs (1934)

Position	Player	Age	Position	Player	Age
1B	George Giles	25	OF	Bullet Rogan	41
2B	Dink Mothell	37	OF	Hurley McNair	45
SS	Newt Allen	33	OF	Eddie Dwight	29
3B	Newt Joseph	38			
C	Frank Duncan	33	P	Andy "Lefty" Cooper	38
C	Tom Young	32	P	Chet Brewer	27
			P	Charlie Beverly	35

Major newspaper coverage of the 1934 Kansas City Monarchs was very limited; therefore, we have only found a handful of box scores and game accounts. Box scores have been found for eight games that McNair played with the 1934 Kansas City Monarchs. In these eight games he went 8 for 27 for a respectable .292 batting average. He also had two doubles and four runs batted in.

During the 1934 season the Kansas City Monarchs barnstormed extensively through Canada. The main opponent on this tour was the legendary House of David.



Kansas City Monarchs (1934)
Barnstorming through Canada w/ Dr. Yak (bus)

(Top row left to right – Wilber “Bullet” Rogan, Newt Joseph and Newt Allen. Standing left to right – Chet Brewer, J.L. Wilkinson, George Giles, Frank Duncan, Carroll “Dink” Mothell, Sam Crawford, House of David player, Charlie Beverly and Andy Cooper. Kneeling left to right – Hurley McNair, House of David player, Eddie Dwight and House of David player.)

SUPER BASEBALL ATTRACTIONS

-WESLEY PARK-

Kansas City Monarchs
WORLD'S COLORED CHAMPIONS

vs. House of David

FEATURING—"BABE" DIDRIKSON
World's Champion Women Athlete

THURSDAY, JUNE 7—8.30 p.m. FRIDAY, JUNE 8—8.30 p.m.
SATURDAY, JUNE 9th (2 GAMES)—2.30 and 8.30 p.m.

ADMISSION: 25c—RESERVED SECTION: 50c—PHONE 33 544

Kansas City Monarchs vs House of David

Winnipeg Free Press

Winnipeg, Canada

06-06-34

The highlight of the 1934 season for the Kansas City Monarchs was playing in the prestigious Denver Post Tournament. Kansas City being invited to play in the Denver Post Tournament was a history making event because it was the first time an "all black" team was invited to play in the tournament. To bolster their roster for tournament play, Kansas City added Turkey Stearnes, Sam Bankhead and John Donaldson to their roster. The Monarchs had a very good tournament and made it all the way to the finals where they were defeated by the House of David. The championship game was set up when Satchel Paige who was playing for the House of David beat Chet Brewer 2-1 before 11,200 fans at Merchant's Park in Denver. Spike Hunter out dueled Chet Brewer by a score of 2-0 in the championship game to give the title to the House of David. For their efforts each member of the House of David received \$ 406 and each Kansas City Monarchs player got \$ 302. It appears that Hurley was not with the Monarchs when they went to the Denver Post Tournament because he is not in the team photo or mentioned in game accounts.



Kansas City Monarchs (1934)
Denver Post team

The Kansas City Monarchs also played a post season exhibition series against the Dizzy Dean All Stars, Paul Waner’s All Stars, Earl Mack’s Major League All Stars and a Chicago Mills team that included Dizzy Dean as their starting pitcher.

Newspaper accounts credit the 1934 Kansas City Monarchs with a won-loss record of 134-14 (.905).

It is unclear if or where Hurley McNair played professional baseball during the 1935 and 1936 seasons.

Founding of the Negro American League

On October 10, 1936 a meeting was held at the Senate Avenue YMCA in Indianapolis (IN) to discuss plans for forming a new “league.” The talks were very productive and resulted in a meeting being held on February 20-21, 1937 in Chicago. Attending the meeting in Chicago were J. L. Wilkinson (Kansas City), A.M. Walker (Birmingham), H.G. Hall (Chicago), B.B. Martin (Memphis), A.G. Titus (Detroit), Dehart Hubbard (Cincinnati), Henry Moore (St. Louis) and G.C. Watkins (Indianapolis). The result of the meeting was the formation of the Negro American League.

The eight teams that competed in the inaugural season of the Negro American League, their won-loss records and “league” standings for the first half of the season were as follows:

Negro American League (1937)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	27	19-8	.704
Chicago American Giants	26	18-8	.692
Cincinnati Tigers	26	15-11	.577
Memphis Red Sox	26	13-13	.500
Detroit Stars	27	12-15	.444
Birmingham Black Barons	27	10-17	.370
Indianapolis Athletics	27	9-18	.333
St. Louis Stars	27	5-22	.185

(Note – The records presented above are for the first half of the season only. The Kansas City Monarchs won both halves of the season then beat the Chicago American Giants in a special post season Play-Off Series when the American Giants disputed the Monarchs being awarded the Negro American League title. Kansas City won the five game Play-Off Series 3 games to 1. One game ended in a 2-2 tie).

McNair Returns to the Negro Leagues

Hurley McNair made his final Negro League appearance as a player in 1937 when he played briefly for the Cincinnati Tigers of the Negro American League. The Tigers were managed by McNair’s old teammate Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe. McNair who was now 48 years old and his best playing days behind him hit a mere .235 (10 for 35) for the Tigers.

The 1937 Cincinnati Tigers fielded a formidable team. Neil Robinson (.363), Howard Easterling (.360), Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (.351), Olan “Jelly” Taylor (.319), Cowan “Bubba” Hyde (.316) and Lloyd “Ducky” Davenport (.303) paced the team in hitting. Jess Houston (7-2), Gene Bremmer (6-0), Porter Moss (3-5), Roy Partlow (2-1) and Bill Jefferson (2-2) made up the starting pitching rotation for Cincinnati.



Cincinnati Tigers
Negro American League

(Back row left to right – Porter Moss, Provens Bradley, Neil Robinson, Willie Jefferson, Eugene Bremer, Marlin Carter, J. Payne and Ducky Davenport. Seated left to right – Olan “Jelly” Taylor, Howard Easterling, Rainey Bibbs, Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe, Sonny Harris, Jess Houston and Josh Johnson. **Hurley McNair** not pictured.)

McNair Becomes a Negro League Umpire

After he concluded his playing career, Hurley McNair became a Negro League umpire. The highlight of his umpiring career was getting to umpire in game four of the 1942 Negro League World Series. Reportedly he was only paid a mere \$ 140 per month as a Negro League umpire.

Some of the other great Negro League ball players who umpired after their playing career were: Oscar Charleston, Phil Cockrell, Frank Duncan, Win Harris, Bill Holland, Crush Holoway, Tom Johnson, Scrip Lee, Bullet Rogan, Mule Suttles, Ben Taylor and E.C. “Pop” Turner.

Passing of a Negro League Legend

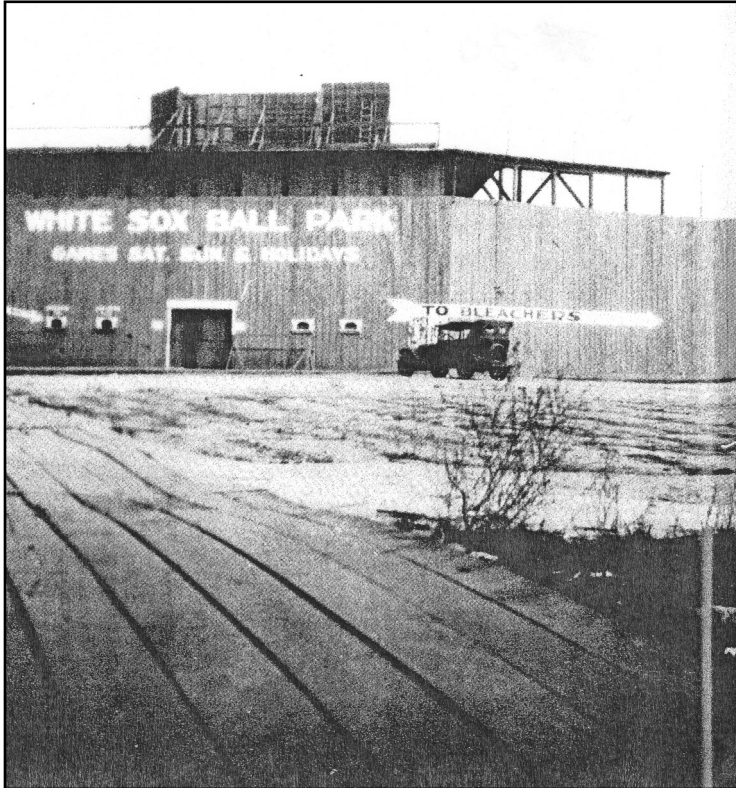
Hurley Mc Nair passed away on December 2, 1948 in Kansas City (Jackson County), Missouri. He was only 60 years of age at the time of his death. McNair was laid to rest at the Highland Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri.



Bullet Rogan, Robert Boone and Hurley McNair

California Winter League Career

Prior to the start of the 1920-21 California Winter League season, local black business man, Doc Anderson, and Joe Pirrone, local night club owner who had also played professional baseball, joined forces to revitalize the “league.” Through the efforts of Anderson and Pirrone, the California Winter League would be transformed into a true professional venue and feature the best winter baseball played in the United States.



White Sox Park (aka Anderson Park)
Home of the Los Angeles White Sox
Los Angeles , CA

Pirrone had two major priorities in mind before he started the venture. First, attract white professional ball players from the Major and Minor Leagues and secondly include at least one high level black team in the “league” each season. Doc Anderson’s role in the plan was to secure at least one high level black team to play in the league, market the California Winter League to the black community and secure a local ball park so that the black team would always have a home field.

Through Anderson’s local and national connections, securing a black team for the “league” was very easy. Doc’s goal for fielding a black team to play in the “league” was to put together a team that would challenge for or win the championship. Securing a ball park was no problem for Anderson because he owned Anderson Park (also known as White Sox Park) which was located at East 4th and Anderson Street. Anderson Park proved to be an excellent location because it was in close proximity to the city’s black neighborhood.

Anderson’s efforts in marketing to the black community were tremendously successful. According to the California Eagle newspaper 75 % of the fans who attended California Winter League games were African American.

The Los Angeles White Sox were to be Anderson’s black entry for the 1920-21 California Winter League season. The White Sox were an excellent semipro team, but in order to compete and challenge for the “league” title significant changes to the roster would need to be made. Doc’s answer to his roster concerns was to recruit several players who had played for the Kansas City Monarchs team that played in the 1920 Negro National League season. Several Kansas City Monarchs players who came West to play for White Sox were George “Tank” Carr, Rube Currie, Bob Fagan, Lemuel Harris, Hurley McNair, Walter “Dobie” Moore and Wilber “Bullet Joe” Rogan.

In a letter that appeared in the Kansas City Star on February 5, 1921, George Carr is identified as the team captain of the White Sox. According to teammate Hurley McNair who wrote the letter, Carr had not been playing up to his usual form because of the strenuous task of running the team. The 1920-21 Los Angeles White Sox were led by the hitting of Bullet Rogan (.368), Dobie Moore (.331), Hurley McNair (.313) and Bob Fagan (.302). McNair also led the California

Winter League in doubles (11) and triples (6) for the 1920-21 season. Hurley compiled a .534 slugging percentage for his first winter season on the West Coast.

Los Angeles featured a two man starting pitching rotation that was made up of Rube Currie (12-4) and Bullet Rogan (8-8).

The teams, their records and league standings for the 1920-21 California Winter League season were as follows:

Team	Record
Los Angeles White Sox	22-15-2
Pirrone's All Stars	10-10-1
Fisher's All Stars	4-4
Blue's All Stars	1-0
Alexander's Giants	0-2
Rolls All Stars	0-2-1
San Pedro	0-4

(Note – The won-loss records for the Los Angeles White Sox are relatively complete. A significant number of games are still missing for all the other teams.)

Joe Pirrone's All Stars were the Los Angeles White Sox most formidable competition during the season. Pirrone's team included Major League players Max Cary, Bob Meusel, Ray Keating and Sloppy Thurston.

The Los Angeles White Sox had an excellent season. They won the inaugural California Winter League pennant over teams that included Major League and Pacific Coast League players. The White Sox finished the season with a record of 22-15-2 (.595).

In addition to the Los Angeles White Sox there were two other black teams that played on the West Coast during the winter of 1920-21. They were the Lincoln Giants and Alexander's Giants. The Lincoln Giants were led by the hitting of Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.494), Bill Pettus (.403), Spottswood Poles (.365), Neal Pullen (.333) and Bunny Downs (.319). Jesse Hubbard (9-1) and Ping Gardner (8-1) were the Lincoln Giants top pitchers. The Lincoln Giants finished their West Coast tour with a record of 20-2 (.909). Alexander's Giants were a lower level team that primarily played an independent schedule. Newspaper accounts credit them with having played 82 games over the winter of 1920-21.

Hurley McNair returned to the West Coast to play in the 1921-22 California Winter League for Lonnie Goodwin's Colored All Stars who had replaced the Los Angeles White Sox. The Colored All Stars were essentially the same team as the White Sox with the addition of Oscar Charleston, Biz Mackey, Jose Mendez and Henry Blackman. Unfortunately for Goodwin, Bullet Rogan and Rube Currie did not return.

The 1921-22 Colored All Stars had an outstanding hitting team that included the following starting line-up:

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Lemuel Hawkins	.336	OF	Oscar Charleston	.405
2B	Bob Fagan	.280	OF	George "Tank" Carr	.340
SS	Walter "Dobie" Moore	.275	OF	Hurley McNair	.290
3B	Henry Blackman	.405			
	Raleigh "Biz" Mackey	.382	P	Jim Jeffries	9-5
C	Neal Pullen	.326		John Taylor	7-6
				Hurley McNair	4-1
				Biz Mackey	3-1

During the 1921-22 season, Hurley McNair pitched when he wasn't playing in the outfield for the Colored All Stars. For a part time pitcher that hadn't started on a regular basis in years, McNair put up good numbers during the winter of 1921-22.

Year	Team	Complete		Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	SO	ERA	SH
		Games	Games									
1921-22	Colored All Stars	7	5	48	4	1	-	-	16	18	-	1

Halfway through the 1921-22 season, Goodwin retired and was replaced by James P. White as manager. Oscar Charleston served as the field captain for the Colored All Stars during the season.

No less than eleven (11) teams played in the California Winter League during the 1921-22 season. Joe Pirrone's All Stars and Bob Meusel's All Stars were the main competition for the Colored All Stars during the season. The Colored All Stars dominated all competition from the start of the season and easily won the California Winter League title with a record of 25-15-1 (.625).

Colored All Stars (1921-22)
Final Batting Averages for the Season

BATTING AVERAGES AND FIELDING PERCENTAGES OF JAMES P. WHITE'S COLORED ALL-STARS 1921-22 FOR 83 GAMES. COMPILED BY OFFICIAL SCORER WM. M. WATSON														
	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	Sac	BB	O	A	E	Av.	Per.
Charleston	21	79	22	32	7	6	2	7	44	4	2	405	.940	
Blackman	21	74	16	30	4	3	3	5	1	25	32	7	405	.897
Mackey	31	123	19	47	8	5	3	4	5	126	87	6	351	.964
Carr	31	134	24	45	8	5	2	1	4	74	38	5	336	.948
Hawkins	29	114	22	39	10	3		6	6	131	17	1	336	.980
Pullen	12	46	4	15	1	1	1			47	2	2	328	.979
McNair	32	124	24	36	6	4	2	3		45	15		390	1.000
Foots	2	7		2	2					2	1		286	1.000
Fagan	32	121	17	33	3	1	2	1	1	59	69	7	380	.948
Moore	22	80	11	22	4	3		2		47	39	12	276	.878
Jefferies	22	63	11	16		2		4	2	12	14	2	264	.903
Mendez	24	82	12	29	3	3	2	2	3	60	56	6	244	.946
Ward	10	37	7	9	1		1	1	1	14	1	2	216	.883
Taylor	13	32	3	6		2		1		4	2	2	166	.931
Baugh	1										1			
Team's totals	31	1113	192	350	67	39	17	25	33	720	341	57	320	881
Team's Average														

Under the ownership of Doc Anderson the Los Angeles White Sox returned to California Winter League for the 1922-23 season. Anderson also served as the team's manager. The following four teams played in the "league" during the 1922-23 season: Pirrone's All Stars (11-9-2), Los Angeles White Sox (9-11-2), San Diego (4-2) and Vernon Tigers (0-2).

The White Sox hitters struggled at the plate the entire season. The leading hitters for the season for the Los Angeles White Sox were Oscar "Heavy" Johnson (.340), Biz Mackey (.340) and Bob Fagan (.255). Hurley McNair's batting statistics for the 1922-23 season are not known at this time. The pitching staff for the White Sox included Jose Mendez (3-1), Lemuel Hawkins (3-1), Rube Currie (2-3), Biz Mackey (0-1) and Linder (first name unknown) (0-3).

At the end of the 1922-23 season the Los Angeles White Sox met Joe Pirrone's All Stars in a double header for the "league" championship. Pirrone's All Stars pounded Rube Currie for 15 hits and 14 runs in a 14-0 route of the White Sox. Doc Anderson sent Jose Mendez to the mound for the second game. The Cuban great pitched the White Sox to a 4-0 shut out win over the Pirrone All Stars. At the end of the day the double header proved nothing. According to an article that appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles White Sox were the "official" California Winter League champions.

Hurley McNair did not play in the California Winter League during the 1923-24 season.

The Los Angeles White Sox under the management of Lonnie Goodwin replaced the St. Louis Stars for the 1924-25 California Winter League season. Four teams played in the "league" during the season. They were White King Soapsters (20-9), Los Angeles White Sox (28-21-1), Vernon Tigers (14-9) and Pirrone's All Stars (9-16).

Games played during the 1924-25 California Winter League season were played at a new ball park built by Joe and John Pirrone. Pirrone Park took the place of White Sox Park for the majority of the California Winter League games.

Hurley McNair only played in 15 games during the 1924-25 Los Angeles White Sox season. Even though he only played in a limited number of games, he compiled a .407 batting average.

Other top hitters for the Los Angeles White Sox were Dobie Moore (.487), George "Tank" Carr (.383), Hurley McNair (.407), Neal Pullen (.339), Connie Day (.320) and Hooks Foreman (.302). The pitching staff for Los Angeles included Plunk Drake (11-5), Cherry Bell (7-6) and Rube Currie (7-8).

The White King Soapsters led by the hitting of Buzz Arlett (.368) and the pitching of George Payne (10-3) won the California Winter League title for the 1924-25 season.

During the winter of 1924-25 Hurley McNair also played briefly with the St. Louis Giants of the Southern California Winter League. The Southern California Winter League included two black teams (St. Louis Giants and the Colored All Stars) and four white teams (Gilmore Oil, Pasadena Merchants, Glendale White Sox and Hollywood Merchants). The St. Louis Giants were led by the hitting of James "Cool Pappa" Bell, Dewey Creacy (.339), Pinky Ward (.339), Willie Bobo (.329) and Mitchell Murray (.329). Fred Bell (8-3), Jim Gurley (7-3) and William Ross (7-5) made up the starting rotation for St. Louis. The St. Louis Giants easily dominated their opponents and finished the 1924-25 winter league season with a record of 27-13-1 (.675).

Hurley McNair had an excellent career in the California Winter League. He played four winter seasons on the West Coast, three of which we have statistics for. In these three seasons, McNair compiled the following hitting statistics for games in "league" play.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920-21	Los Angeles	32	131	-	41	11	6	2	-	-	.313	.534
1921-22	Colored All Stars	32	124	-	36	6	6	2	-	-	.290	.452
1922-23	Los Angeles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1924-25	Los Angeles St. Louis	15	59	-	24	4	0	1	-	-	.407	.525
	Total	70	314	-	101	21	12	5	-	-	.322	.513

During his career in the California Winter League, McNair played at least twenty-three (23) games against Major League pitchers. In these 23 games, Hurley went 30 for 99 for a .303 batting average and a .485 slugging percentage. His 30 hits included 9 doubles, 3 triples and 1 homerun.

Assessing Hurley Mc Nair's Career

- All Negro League researchers agree that Hurley McNair was an outstanding hitter during his career. The following chart identifies his yearly batting average in the Negro National League and Negro American League as compiled by several leading Negro League researchers.

Year	Larry Lester and Dick Clark	Baseball Reference	John Holway	Seamheads	James Riley	McMillan Baseball Encyclopedia	Difference in Batting Avg.
1920	.325	.331	.332	.325	.312	.313	20 points
1921	.357	.357	.236	.344	.306	.306	121 points
1922	.359	.370	.420	.374	.375	.375	61 points
1923	.327	.332	.303	.327	.354	.354	51 points
1924	.329	.324	.346	.326	.311	.311	35 points
1925	.337	.329	.374	.273	.360	.360	101 points
1926	.266	.269	.289	-	.280	.280	23 points
1927	.281	.276	.275	-	.278	.278	6 points
1928	.273	.274	.274	.274	-	.274	1 point
1932	.424	-	-	-	-	-	-
1934	.296	.348	-	.333	-	-	52 points
1937	.235	.176	.226	-	-	-	59 points
Career Batting Average	.317	.318	.322	.331	-	.317	-

(Note: Differences in yearly batting averages are reported because researchers have a different number of games and some researchers combine both "league" and "non-league" games in their totals while other researchers only report statistics for "league" games and games against high levels of competition.)

The following chart presents the research of several leading Negro League researchers in regards to number of at bats, hits, batting average and slugging percentage.

	Center for Negro League Baseball Research	Larry Lester and Dick Clark	Baseball Reference	Seamheads	John Holway	McMillan Baseball Encyclopedia
At Bats	3238	3225	2859	2650	2949	2330
Hits	1072	1023	910	770	955	739
Batting Average	.331	.317	.318	.331	.322	.317
Slugging Percentage	.486	.457	.459	.480	-	.468

- In the early years of the Negro National League, Hurley McNair was one of the "league's" biggest stars. Research by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) credits McNair with the following batting averages in "league" games and in games against top level teams for the first six years of the Negro National League: 1920 (.325), 1921 (.344), 1922 (.374), 1923 (.332), 1924 (.353) and 1925 (.360). His batting average for his first six seasons in the Negro National League was .348 (685 for 1971).
- Hurley got a very late start in Negro League baseball. It is important to note that the Negro National League was not founded until 1920 and Hurley spent at least ten years prior to that playing for independent teams. McNair was already 31 years old when he joined the Kansas City Monarchs for the inaugural season of the Negro National League.
- McNair lost at least ten years of his most productive years as a ball player playing for independent teams and lower level teams. Research for the early years of his career still needs to be conducted.

- Only a limited portion of McNair’s batting statistics for the early part of his career have been uncovered. For the years 1911 (Minneapolis Keystones) and 1915 (Chicago American Giants) we have found a decent number of box scores for his career before 1920. In 18 games for Minneapolis in 1911, Hurley went 27 for 76 for a .355 batting average and a .632 slugging percentage. For Hurley’s 1915 season with the Chicago American Giants, box scores for 53 games have been located. In these 53 games Hurley went 69 for 196 for a .311 batting average.

Research efforts up to this date have located box scores for 116 games that Hurley McNair played before 1920. In these 116 games he went 155 for 446 for a .348 batting average and a .500 slugging percentage.

- During the early part of his career, Hurley McNair was a dual threat. He was both an outstanding pitcher and outfielder who hit for both average and power.
- McNair’s professional career lasted from at least 1910 to 1937. He played professional baseball until he was 48 years old.
- Hurley McNair was a winner. He played on the following ten (10) championship teams.

Year	Team	League
1911	Minneapolis Keystones	Colored Champions of Northwest
1920-21	Los Angeles White Sox	California Winter League
1921-22	Colored All Stars	California Winter League
1922	Kansas City Monarchs	City Champions of Kansas City
1923	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro National League
1924	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro National League
1924	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro National League
1924	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro League World Series
1924-25	St. Louis Giants	Southern California Winter League
1925	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro National League

- One of the best ways to analyze the baseball career of Hurley McNair is to study the research of Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team. Using the concept of “win shares” that was developed by sabermetrician and author Bill James, Ashwill has been able to compare how McNair stacked up against his peers. Win shares is a statistic that assesses a player’s value in terms of his ability to help his team win games. Using the concept of win shares Ashwill’s research draws the following conclusions:
 1. McNair would have been an all star (if all star teams were selected) in 1915, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924.
 2. Hurley would have won a Gold Glove (if that award existed at the time) in 1915 and would have come in second place in 1920, 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1928.
 3. He would have come in second for a Silver Slugger Award (if that award had existed at the time) in 1922, third place in 1915 and fourth place in 1920, 1921 and 1923.
 4. Hurley McNair’s win shares score of 109.8 was the highest of any left fielder from 1910 to 1934. Jimmie Lyons was in second place with a score of 88.5. Scores of other top left fielders during this era were as follows: George Shively (85.3), Armando Marsans (73.4), Frank Duncan (62.6), Jude Gans (56.1), Fats Jenkins (50.4), Vic Harris (48.2), Blainey Hall (41.8) and Pablo Mesa (24.3).
 5. When compared to his Kansas City Monarchs team mates, he had the highest win share (157.9) of all Kansas City Monarchs players from 1920 to 1934. Dobie Moore finished in second place with a 142.5 win shares score and Oscar “Heavy” Johnson finished in third place with a score of 114.3, Newt Joseph was fourth with 79.7 and Frank Duncan was in fifth place with a win shares score of 56.8.
- In short a case can be made that Hurley McNair was **one of the best players of his day.**

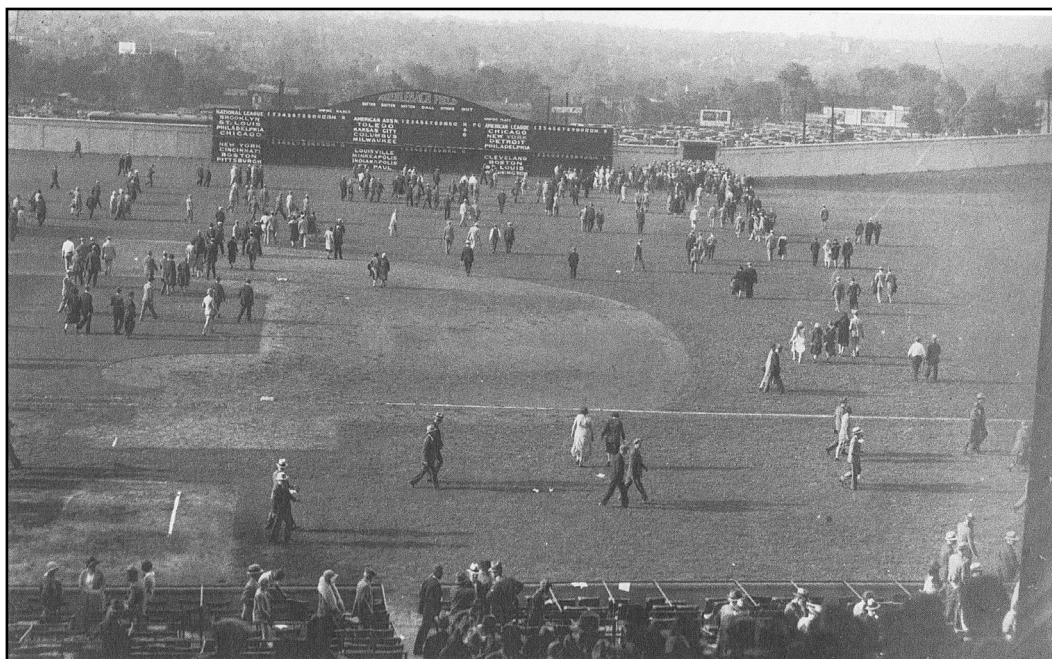
Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1910	Houston Black Buffaloes	Independent
1910	Minneapolis Keystones	Independent
1910	St. Paul Gophers	Independent
1911	Minneapolis Keystones	Independent
1911	Kansas City (KS) Giants	Independent
1911-1913	Chicago Giants	Independent
1912	Kansas City (MO) Royal Giants	Independent
1913	Kansas City (KS) Giants	Independent
1913-1914	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
1914	Kansas City (MO) Royal Giants	Independent
1915-1916	Chicago American Giants	Independent
1916	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
1917	Lost Island (IA) Giants	Independent
1917	All Nations	Independent
1919	24 th Infantry Regiment (Buffalo Soldiers)	United States Military
1919	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
1919	Detroit Stars	Independent
1920-1927	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro National League
1928	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
1929-1931	Gilkerson's Union Giants	Independent
1932	John Donaldson's All Stars	Independent
1933	Arkansas City (KS) Beavers	Independent
1934	Kansas City Monarchs	Independent
1937	Cincinnati Tigers	Independent

Umpire:

1942-1946	Negro National League
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Muelbach Field
Home of the Kansas City Monarchs

Winter Leagues and Post Season Play:

Year	Team	League
1920	Kansas City Monarchs	Series vs Cuban Stars
1920	Kansas City Monarchs	Series vs Indianapolis ABC's
1920	Kansas City Monarchs	Series vs Casey Stengel's All Stars
1920	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Bob Meusel's All Stars
1920-21	Los Angeles White Sox	California Winter League
1921	Kansas City Monarchs	Series vs Kansas City Blues
1921	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Major League All Stars
1921-22	Colored All Stars	California Winter League
1922	Kansas City Monarchs	Series vs Kansas City Blues
1922	Kansas City Monarchs	Two Game Series vs Babe Ruth's All Stars
1922-23	Los Angeles White Sox	California Winter League
1923	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Casey Stengel's All Stars
1924	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Western Association All Stars
1924	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro League World Series vs Hilldale
1924-25	Los Angeles White Sox	California Winter League
1924-25	St. Louis Giants	Southern California Winter League
1925	Kansas City Monarchs	Play-Off Series vs St. Louis Stars
1925	Kansas City Monarchs	Negro League World Series vs Hilldale
1926	Kansas City Monarchs	Play-Off Series vs Chicago American Giants
1927	Kansas City Monarchs	Post Season Exhibition Games
1934	Kansas City Monarchs	Canadian Barnstorming Tour
1934	Kansas City Monarchs	Series vs Dizzy Dean's All Stars
1934	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Earl Mack's Major League All Stars
1934	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Paul Waner's All Stars
1934	Kansas City Monarchs	Game vs Chicago Mills (w/Dizzy Dean)
1942	Negro League – Umpire	Negro League World Series (Game 4)



Baker Bowl
Philadelphia, PA
Site of the First Negro League World Series

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Pre-Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1910	Minneapolis	5	17	-	7	1	-	-	-	1	.412	-
1910	St. Paul	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1.000	-
1911	Minneapolis	18	76	12	27	6	3	3	-	7	.355	.632
1912	Chicago	18	65	11	25	4	1	2	11	2	.385	.569
1912	Kansas City	2	8	4	5	1	0	2	5	1	.625	1.500
1913	Chicago	2	9	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	.444	-
1913	Union Giants	2	5	1	3	1	0	0	1	-	.600	.800
1914	Union Giants	6	27	6	8	0	1	0	4	0	.296	.370
1915	Chicago	53	196	35	61	9	3	1	48	3	.311	.388
1916	Union Giants	2	9	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	.222	.222
1917	All Nations	5	22	5	7	3	0	0	0	1	.318	.455
1919	Union Giants	3	15	5	7	3	0	0	4	0	.467	.867
	Total	117	450	82	157	28	8	8	76	17	.349	.500

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	Kansas City	78	317	63	103	20	8	4	47	13	.325	.473
1921	Kansas City	100	392	81	135	22	11	10	83	11	.344	.533
1922	Kansas City	84	318	79	119	19	7	8	69	9	.374	.553
1923	Kansas City	99	380	83	126	14	10	8	66	24	.332	.484
1924	Kansas City	72	275	65	98	10	6	8	55	5	.353	.520
1925	Kansas City	74	289	52	104	11	13	3	64	10	.360	.516
1926	Kansas City	61	212	38	62	12	5	0	36	12	.292	.396
1927	Kansas City	88	324	58	91	18	6	7	31	12	.281	.438
1928	Detroit	69	245	44	67	9	5	3	40	7	.273	.388
1934	Kansas City	7	23	3	8	2	0	0	2	0	.348	.435
1937	Cincinnati	5	17	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	.235	.235
	Total	737	2792	568	917	137	71	51	493	104	.328	.483

Career Statistics – Hitting (Negro Leagues – Play-Offs)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1925	Kansas City	7	20	3	6	0	0	0	3	3	.300	.300
1926	Kansas City	7	25	5	4	1	0	0	-	1	.160	.200
	Total	14	45	8	10	1	0	0	3	4	.222	.244

Career Statistics – Hitting (Negro Leagues – World Series)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1924	Kansas City	10	35	3	5	0	0	0	-	-	.143	.143
1925	Kansas City	6	22	4	6	2	0	0	-	1	.273	.364
	Total	16	57	7	11	2	0	0	-	1	.193	.228

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Non-League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1915	Chicago	12	44	13	25	3	-	2	-	-	.568	.773
1927	Kansas City	6	25	8	10	3	-	2	-	-	.400	.760
1934	Kansas City	2	4	0	2	1	0	0	-	-	.500	.750
	Total	20	73	21	37	7	-	4	-	-	.507	.767

Career Statistics – Hitting (Independent Teams – Post Negro League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1932	John Donaldson's	8	33	6	14	2	1	0	6	0	.424	.545
1934	Kansas City	8	27	3	8	2	0	0	0	0	.296	.370
	Total	16	60	9	22	4	1	0	6	0	.367	.467

Career Statistics – Hitting (Games vs the Kansas City Blues of the American Association)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
	Total	14	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	.382	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (California Winter League)

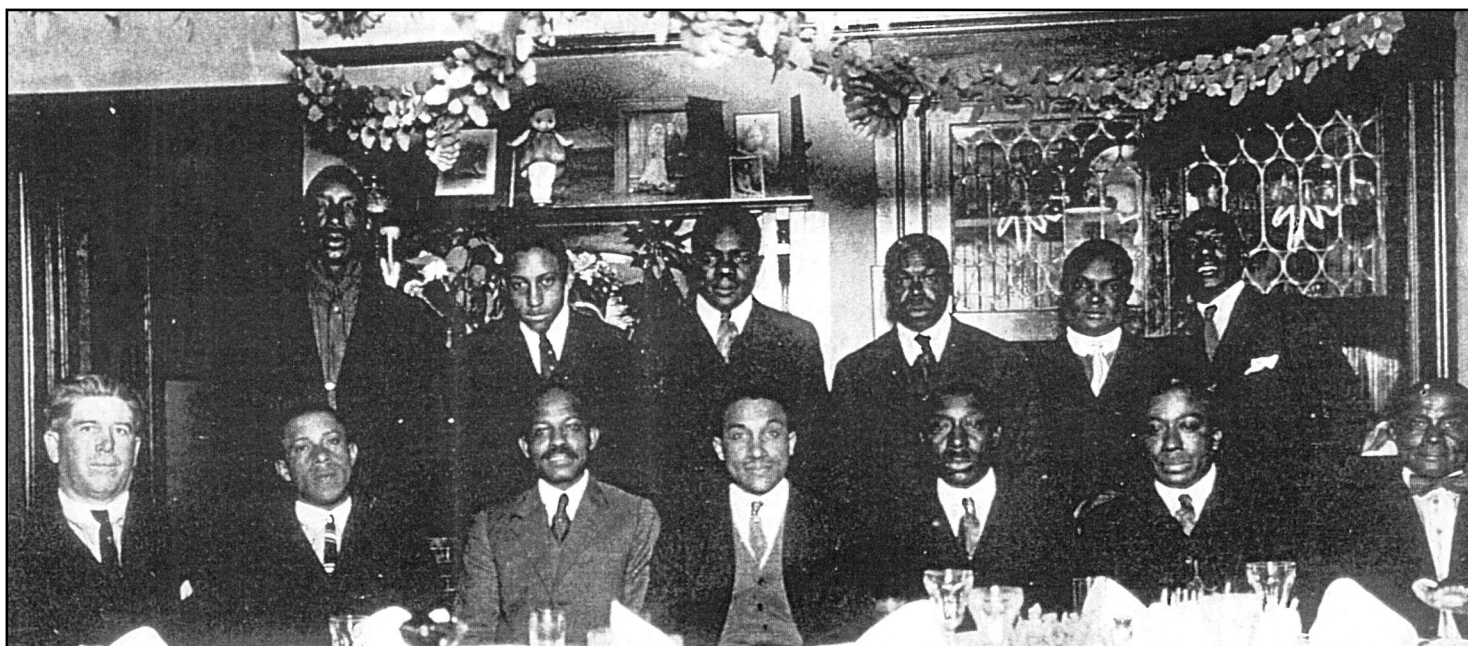
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920-21	Los Angeles	32	131	-	41	11	6	2	-	-	.313	.534
1921-22	Colored All Stars	32	124	-	36	6	6	2	-	-	.290	.452
1922-23	Los Angeles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1924-25	Los Angeles St. Louis	15	59	-	24	4	0	1	-	-	.407	.525
	Total	70	314	-	101	21	12	5	-	-	.322	.513

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Pre-Negro League	117	450	82	152	28	8	8	76	17	.349	.500
Negro League	737	2792	568	917	137	71	51	493	104	.328	.483
Play-Offs	14	45	8	10	1	0	0	3	4	.222	.244
World Series	16	57	7	11	2	0	0	-	1	.193	.228
Non-League	20	73	21	37	7	-	4	-	-	.568	.773
Independent	16	60	9	22	4	1	0	6	0	.367	.467
Games vs KC Blues	14	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	.382	-
California	70	314	-	101	21	12	5	-	-	.322	.513
Total	1004	3791	695	1255	204	92	70	578	126	.331	.

Batting and League Leader Hitting Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
On Base Percentage	1922	Negro National League	.511
Hits	1921	Negro National League	135
Total Bases	1921	Negro National League	209
Doubles	1920	Negro National League	20
	1920-21	California Winter League	11
	1921	Negro National League	22
Triples	1920	Negro National League	8
	1920-21	California Winter League	6
	1921	Negro National League	11
	1923	Negro National League	10
	1925	Negro National League	13
Walks	1922	Negro National League	50
	1923	Negro National League	49
Hit by Pitch	1924	Negro National League	5



Kansas City Monarchs Celebration Dinner
(McNair – standing second from right)

Career Statistics – Pitching (Regular Season - Pre-Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Complete		Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	SO	ERA	SH
		Games	Games									
1910	Minneapolis	6	4	38	3	2	-	-	8	13	-	1
1911	Minneapolis	24	21	189	15	7	-	-	18	58	-	3
1911	Kansas City	2	2	17	1	0	8	2	-	-	-	1
1912	Kansas City	4	1	30.3	1	1	33	20	15	14	-	0
1913	Union Giants	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	-	0
1914	Union Giants	1	0	4.3	0	1	4	2	2	1	-	0
1915	Chicago	2	1	9.3	0	1	7	1	2	8	-	0
	Total	40	29	289.0	20	12	55	27	45	94	-	5

Career Statistics – Pitching (Regular Season - Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Complete		Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	SO	ERA	SH
		Games	Games									
1921	Kansas City	4	2	19	1	1	16	7	5	9	3.32	0
1922	Kansas City	3	0	18	3	0	18	9	5	9	-	0
1923	Kansas City	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	4	1	18.00	0
1924	Kansas City	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.00	0
	Total	9	2	40	4	1	36	18	14	21	-	0

Career Statistics – Pitching (California Winter League)

Year	Team	Complete		Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	SO	ERA	SH
		Games	Games									
1920-21	Los Angeles	1	1	9	1	0	-	-	0	3	-	0
1921-22	Colored All Stars	7	5	48	4	1	-	-	16	18	-	1
	Total	8	6	57	5	1	-	-	16	21	-	1

Career Pitching Statistics (Totals)

	Complete		Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	SO	ERA	SH
	Games	Games									
Pre-Negro Leagues	40	29	289	20	12	55	27	45	94	-	5
Negro Leagues	9	2	40	4	1	36	18	14	21	-	0
California	8	6	57	5	1	-	-	16	21	-	1
Total	57	37	386	29	14	91	45	75	136	-	6

Selected Career Highlights

- Hurley McNair compiled a career batting average of .331 with a .486 slugging percentage in Negro League play and a .331 career batting average with a .489 slugging percentage in games against all levels of competition.
- One hundred and sixteen (116) games have been found for Hurley McNair before the founding of the Negro National League in 1920. In these 116 games he registered 155 hits in 446 at bats for a .348 batting average and a .500 slugging percentage.
- McNair played at least twenty-three (23) games against Major League pitchers. In these 23 games, he went 30 for 99 for a .303 batting average and a .485 slugging percentage.
- According to Negro League researcher Phil Dixon, Hurley McNair played more games against the Kansas City Blues of the American Association than any other Negro Leaguer. Dixon has identified 14 games in which Hurley played against the Blues. McNair compiled a .382 batting average in these fourteen games. He also had four doubles and two homeruns.
- In September of 1911 while pitching for the Kansas City Giants, Hurley McNair beat Rube Foster and the Chicago American Giants in a 10 innings pitching duel. The next month Hurley shut out the Kansas City Blues of the American Association for seven (7) innings and only allowed one hit before the game was called because of darkness.
- In 1911 while pitching for the Minneapolis Keystones he had 18 complete games in 21 starts while compiling a 12-7 won-loss record.
- In his first six years of the Negro National League, Hurley compiled the following seasonal batting averages: 1920 (.325), 1921 (.344), 1922 (.374), 1923 (.332), 1924 (.353) and 1925 (.360). He had a .348 average during these six seasons.
- Named to the Kansas City Star Negro National League All Star team in 1920.
- In 1922 Hurley McNair had the best season of his career. He had a season batting average of .374 with a slugging percentage of .553. McNair also had 19 doubles, 7 triples, 8 homeruns and 69 RBIs.
- In 1922 he helped lead the Kansas City Monarchs to the “City Championship of Kansas City” over the Kansas City Blues.
- McNair helped lead the Kansas City Monarchs to three (3) straight Negro National League titles from 1923 to 1925.
- Member of the 1924 Negro League World Series champion Kansas City Monarchs.
- Hurley helped lead his team to three (3) California Winter League titles. They were the 1920-21 Los Angeles White Sox, 1921-22 Colored All Stars and the 1924-25 St. Louis Giants.
- During his limited pitching career, Hurley met with success. He threw 34 complete games in less than 50 starts. As a pitcher he had a won-loss record of 26-14 (.650) with 136 strikeouts in 359 innings.
- In 1932 at the age of 43, Hurley batted .424 while playing with the John Donaldson’s All Stars.
- During his career as a Negro League umpire, he got the opportunity to umpire in the 1942 Negro League World Series in game four.

Kansas City Monarchs (1934)

Over the course of the history of the team, the Kansas City Monarchs have played in the Negro National League (1920-1931), the Negro American League (1937-1962) and from the years of 1932 through the 1936 season they played an independent-barnstorming schedule.

After a six year absence, Hurley McNair rejoined the team for their 1934 season..



Kansas City Monarchs (1934)

(Standing left to right – Frank Duncan, **Andy Cooper**, Charlie Beverly, **Chet Brewer**, Sam Crawford, **John Donaldson**, George Giles, T.J. Young and Dink Mothell. Kneeling left to right – Eddie Dwight, Newt Allen, Wilber “**Bullet**” Rogan, Hurley McNair and Newt Joseph)