

Forgotten Heroes:

Walter “Rev” Cannady



by

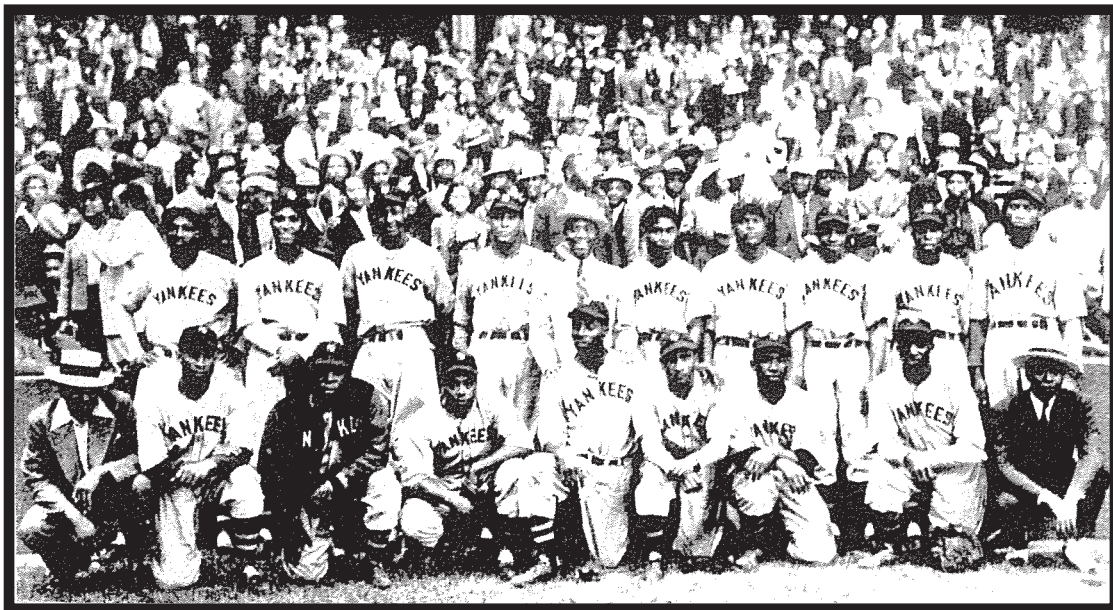
Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel



New York Black Yankees (1933)

(Back row left to right – **Clint Thomas**, **Tex Burnett**, **Robert Clarke**, **Crush Holoway**, unknown, **Walter “Rev” Cannady** and **George “Tubby” Scales**. Kneeling left to right – **Jess Hubbard**, **Ted Trent**, **Willie Burns**, **Henry Mc Henry** and unknown.)



New York Black Yankees (1939)

(**Walter “Rev” Cannady** – back row fourth from right)

Walter I. “Rev” Cannady was born on March 06, 1902 in Norfolk, Virginia. Researchers disagree with Walter’s year of birth and place of birth. Some researchers show him being born in 1902, others say 1903 and still others have his year of birth as 1904. Researchers also have him being born in both Norfolk (VA) and Lake City (FL).

Cannady stood six feet tall and weighed approximately 175 to 180 pounds during his playing career. He threw right handed and batted from the right hand side of the plate. Walter started his professional baseball career as a pitcher but was quickly moved to the infield so that his team could take advantage of his outstanding hitting. Reportedly he was very good defensively at multiple positions with outstanding range and a strong, accurate throwing arm.

Rev is best remembered as a Negro League ball player for his hitting. He was a good contact hitter who batted in the middle part of the batting order the majority of his career. Current research reveals that for his 25 year playing career he had an impressive batting average of .337 in Negro baseball games and a .336 batting average in games against all levels of competition. Some of the things that made him a great hitter were the following:

1. Rev was extremely patient at the plate. He had a good eye and always waited on the pitch that he wanted to hit.
2. Cannady was a great curve ball hitter. According to Negro League great and teammate, Walter “Buck” Leonard, Cannady literally feasted on curve balls and consistently connected for a base hit whenever he got one.
3. He was also an unbelievably good “bad ball” hitter. Pitches that the average ball player would take for a “ball,” Walter would find a way to connect with the ball for a base hit.
4. Walter was known to have hit with above average power. Our current research credits him with an impressive slugging percentage of .491 in Negro baseball games

Walter “Rev” Cannady started playing professional baseball in 1921 first with the Dayton Marcos and then the Cleveland Tate Stars. He retired after playing during the 1945 season with the New York Cubans. During his 25 years in professional baseball he played for at least fifteen (15) different Negro baseball teams and three (3) different teams in Cuba. One of the most amazing aspects of his playing career was that he changed teams an astounding twenty-two (22) different times. An interesting side note was that he played with the Homestead Grays on six (6) different occasions. Cannady also played for several other teams in the post season to play exhibition games. In short there was always a market for his service and he was never without an owner who was willing to pay Rev to play for their team. He was well traveled to say the least.

Negro League Career

Walter “Rev” Cannady started his professional Negro baseball career in 1921 with the Dayton Marcos as their starting centerfielder. The Dayton Marcos were founded by Moses Moore who owned the New Marco Hotel in Dayton (OH). The Dayton Marcos had played their 1920 season in Rube Foster’s newly formed Negro National League but dropped out of the “league” after a significantly disappointing performance. Dayton played the 1921 season as an independent team. Currently, four (4) games from May 21st to May 28th have been found for Cannady playing for the Dayton Marcos. He went 6 for 17 with a double and a .353 batting average. After playing a game for the Dayton Marcos against the Cleveland Tate Stars on May 28, 1921, he was signed by Cleveland and was in their starting line-up the next day against the St. Louis Giants.

The Cleveland Tate Stars were owned by George J. Tate and managed by the legendary James “Candy Jim” Taylor. George Tate also served as the president of the Tate Stars Baseball Company.

A GOOD INVESTMENT!

TO PUT CLEVELAND ON OUR BASEBALL MAP

THE TATE STARS BASEBALL CO.

CAPITAL STOCK, \$25,000.

PROPOSITION

The Tate Stars Baseball Co., incorporated under the laws of Ohio, capitalized at \$25,000.00, par value of stock \$10.00, offers you an interest in this game that will be profitable, combined with an investment always satisfactory—good real estate, such an opportunity is here now—Cleveland Area Minute.

We have taken option on 4-1/2 acres of fine property for a park, located in the heart of this great industrial city—only fifteen minutes from corner Central Ave. and E. 55th St. The actual increased value of this property is conservatively placed at \$200,000 by high class realty men. We have planned and propose the erection of a large grandstand and bleachers at a cost of \$20,000. This makes the actual potential value of this property—that you can acquire interest in—easily \$40,000.

We hope to have the enthusiastic support of hundreds of interested stockholders, with a faith that Tate Stars Company should be built on a solid rock of mutual co-operation and benefit.

Address all communications to:

TATE

Phone: Prospect 4511.

STARS

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Cleveland, Ohio.

SAFETY AND PROFITS

A franchise has been assumed in the Western Colored Nat'l. League by Fred A. Knabe Foster and the Board of Directors. The teams in this circuit have been making big money. One western club is well and truthfully known to have made over \$50,000 this year while another club is commonly known to have made over \$15,000 in the past two years. A well-known and strong bank has been secured as depository for all funds. The Secretary-Treasurer, as holder of all funds, is bonded by a life bonding company.

DIRECTORATE

In this new enterprise our directors comprise no great names, but they are all honorable and capable men. Personnel of directors: George J. Tate, President of the company, is a merchant who has for 9 years conducted a successful business. James Ellis, Vice-President, is a popular sportsman known best as "Harold Jib".

Volcan A. Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer, is a popular young business man. Former chamber-commander, Western Reserve Lodge, K. P.

Geo. A. Mundy, our counsel and attorney, 1201 H. Williams, General M. O. Director, former, Coal & Fuel Co., ex-manager Calumet Mining Co., Ill. Director, Dell Williams. We consider our proposition a good and profitable investment, founded on baseball, a recreation park and a fine real estate property. Our directors believe in it to the extent that they have already subscribed to \$5,000 of stock with options on more. Shares are \$10 each—all common non-preferred. Act at once!

George J. Tate
President

Tate Baseball
Company

Stock Offering

Cleveland Gazette
Cleveland, OH
01-01-21

The first order of business for George Tate was to secure a home ball park for his team. George Tate initially purchased Forest City Park in Cleveland and then proceeded to build a 5,000 seat grandstand. When the construction project was finished, he named the ball park "Tate Field." According to baseball mogul Rube Foster of the Chicago American Giants, the stadium was "one of the finest baseball stadiums owned by our people in the country."

Cleveland Tate Stars
vs
Pittsburgh Keystones

Cleveland Gazette
Cleveland, OH
05-28-21

George Tate's plan for the team was to use the 1921 season as preparation for his team entering the Negro National League in 1922. The Tate Stars played an independent schedule during the season. Some Negro League researchers report that the 1921 Tate Stars were an affiliate member in the Negro National League.

The nineteen (19) year old Cannady was the starting left fielder for the team during the 1921 season. He had an excellent rookie year. In forty (40 games) for which box scores have been located, Walter collected 45 hits in 137 "official" at bats for a .328 batting average. Current research credits him with the following hitting statistics for his rookie season with the Tate Stars:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	Cleveland	40	137	26	45	11	2	1	27	5	.328	.460

Candy Jim had a very strong hitting team. Other top hitters on the Tate Stars in 1921 were Fred Boyd (.336), Wade Johnston (.321), George Brown (.313), Robert Bonner (.311), Claude Johnston (.304), Carlisle Perry (.288), James "Bobo" Leonard (.283) and Candy Jim Taylor (.283). The Tate Stars compiled an outstanding team batting average of .298 (472 for 1585) in the 46 games for which box scores have been found.

Finis "Slim" Branham was the ace of the pitching staff with 12 starts and an 8-7 (.533) won-loss record with a 3.30 ERA. Ted Hamilton (3-3) and Farmer Brady (3-3) were the team's other two top starters. Besides playing left field, Rev Cannady also appeared in at least seven (7) games (six as the starter) as a pitcher for the Tate Stars and compiled a won-loss record of 6-1 (.857). The highlight of the 1921 season for Rev Cannady as a pitcher came on September 5th when he pitched a one hitter against the Homestead Grays. Cannady earned a 5-0 win in his outing against the Grays.

According to the research of the Seamheads research group the Cleveland Tate Stars were considered the top independent team in the West for the 1921 season. Seamheads credit the Cleveland Tate Stars with a record of 21-24-1 (.467) in games against top level competition. The Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) has identified box scores, line scores and newspaper articles for fifty (50) games played by the Cleveland Tate Stars during the 1921 season. In these fifty (50) games, the Tate Stars had a won-loss record of 33-16-1 (.673).

Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark credits Walter Cannady as also playing briefly for the Columbus Buckeyes of the Negro National League in 1921.

Cannady Travels to Florida

According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Cleveland Gazette on February 04, 1922 three Tate Stars players were in Florida playing winter ball. These players were Walter Cannady (OF/P), Finis "Slim" Branham (P) and Carlisle Perry (SS). The trio played for the Royal Poinciana Hotel team which competed against the Breakers Hotel in the Florida Hotel League.

George Tate Continues to Raise Money

Even though he had significant financial problems, spent countless hours in court fighting law suits and faced relentless criticism from investors and creditors related to how he managed the finances of the Cleveland Tate Stars, George Tate ramped up his efforts to raise money after the conclusion of the 1921 baseball season. His first step in his fund raising effort to sell stock was to publish an "Open Letter" that appeared in the Cleveland Gazette on October 15, 1921. In this letter to the newspaper readership he stressed that the team was on solid financial ground and that investor money was not in jeopardy. In his "Open Letter" Tate was quoted as follows:

"We wish to inform the stockholders of the company that the business of the company is in good shape and all business is handled properly in every respect and that the officers have done remarkably well all things considered. All reports to the contrary are false and unfounded."

According to Tate in another newspaper article that appeared in the Cleveland Gazette in the winter of 1921, the Tate Stars Baseball Company had revenues of \$ 48,509 and total disbursements of the same and liabilities of \$ 22,373 and assets of the same for their 1921 baseball season. In essence the team reportedly did not make or lose any money.

George Tate continued to aggressively conduct his fund raising campaign and sell stock through extensive newspaper advertising and personal appearances through the winter of 1921-1922. Confident in his ability to continue to fund the team, Tate moved the team's headquarters to larger and lavishly furnished offices located at 3734 Central Ave in Cleveland.



Cleveland Tate Stars Enter Negro National League

Prior to the start of the 1922 season, the Cleveland Tate Stars were granted a franchise into Rube Foster's Negro National League. Walter "Rev" Cannady was back with the team as their starting left fielder. In a newspaper article that was published in the Cleveland Gazette on December 24, 1921 George Tate predicted that his team would be in the pennant race for the Negro National League title once the season began.

Plain Dealer
Cleveland, OH
02-05-22

As soon as his Negro National League franchise was in place, George Tate continued selling stock in his team at \$ 10.00 per share. Tate also sold season tickets for \$ 11.00 per seat. Tate's goal was to sell between \$ 3,000 to \$ 4,000 of season tickets in order to make improvements to the ball park. Interestingly enough he thought this a very reasonable goal because the Cleveland Indians of the "white" American League had sold \$ 70,000 worth of season tickets. An incentive to fans buying season tickets was that they could bring friends and family to the game and they would get into the ballpark for free. According to newspaper reports the games at Tate Field were well attended. One game in April reportedly drew 6,500 fans.

The Tate Stars suffered through financial problems all season. Shortly after the season started, creditors and stock holders began to "hound" George Tate for payments. Mistrust in how George Tate handled the team's finances came to a head when Col. Jacob Reed, Tate Stars treasurer, complained publicly that he had never viewed the team's books and that only George Tate knew the "true" financial status of the team. Tate would never get past all of his financial problems. He spent most of the summer in and out of court to defend himself against charges of financial mismanagement. When the regular season ended he still owed his players approximately \$ 1,000.00 in back salaries.

Cannady started the season with the Tate Stars before he moved to the Homestead Grays. Sixteen (16) box scores have been found with Walter in the line-up for Cleveland. He went 17 for 44 in these 16 games for a .386 batting average with a .477 slugging percentage.

Even with Candy Jim Taylor at the helm, the Cleveland Tate Stars struggled in their first season in the Negro National League. They had a great season at the plate in 1921 but this would not carry over to their 1922 campaign. The Tate Stars team batting average dropped thirty-five (35) points from .298 in 1921 to .263 in 1922. During the 1922 season Cleveland was led by the hitting of Mitchell Murray (.330), Fred Boyd (.322) and Claude Johnson (.305).

Finis "Slim" Branham (8-10), Bob McClure (4-1), Wade Johnston (3-6) and Joe Strong (2-5) anchored the pitching staff. Before he left the Tate Stars, Cannady took the mound in five (5) games of which he was the starting pitcher in three of them. Rev pitched 36 innings and went 3-1 in these five games with an impressive 2.50 ERA. Walter's best outing on the mound was a two hitter he pitched against the Cuban Stars. He won the game by a score of 7-1.



Cumberland "Cum" Posey
Homestead Grays

Rev Cannady left the Cleveland Tate Stars during the mid-summer of 1922 and signed with the Homestead Grays. The loss of Rev Cannady's bat in the starting line-up was devastating to the Tate Stars. Cleveland ended the season with a losing record of 15-26-1 (.366) in Negro National League games and a record of 25-35-2 (.417) in games against all levels of competition.

The 1922 Homestead Grays played an independent schedule in the East. The team was owned and managed by Cumberland "Cum" Posey. Walter Cannady became the Gray's starting left fielder when he joined the team and led the Grays in hitting

It appears that the addition of Rev Cannady to the Homestead Grays line-up had a very positive impact on the team's performance. According to an article that appeared in the Richmond Planet of Richmond (VA) on September 9th, the Homestead Grays had an unbelievable won-loss record of 22-1-6 (.957) during the month of August. The article also singled out Cannady as being an important player on Homestead pitching staff.

Currently twenty (20) box scores have been found for Walter Cannady for the 1922 season. His hitting statistics in these twenty (20) games were as follows

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1922	Cleveland Homestead	20	61	13	30	5	1	2	13	4	.492	.705

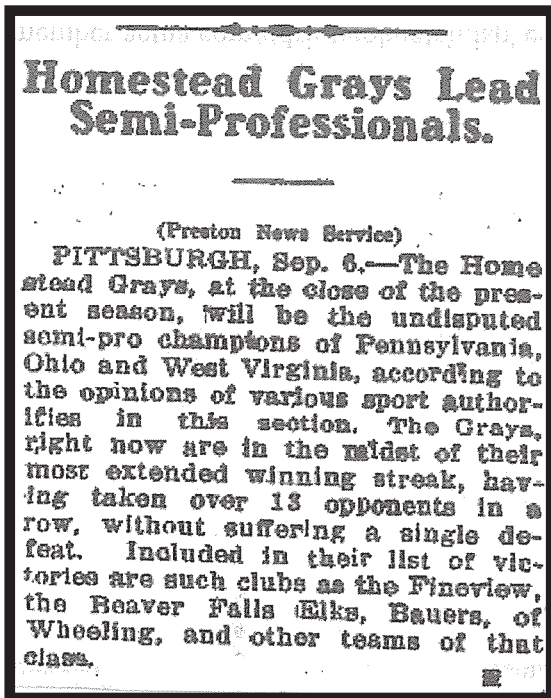
Cannady Leads Grays to a Championship Season

Walter “Rev” Cannady returned to play for the Homestead Grays for the 1923 season. The Grays played an independent schedule in 1923. Cumberland “Cum” Posey was the owner of the team. He was also the manager and booking agent for the team. With Posey booking games, the team played almost everyday of the week.

Some of the top offensive players on the 1923 Homestead Grays roster were Walter “Rev” Cannady (P/OF), Elmore “Scrappy” Brown (SS), Raymond “Mo” Harris (2B), Win Harris (OF) and Jasper “Jap” Washington (1B/3B). Pitchers Oscar Owens (CF), Walter Cannady (OF) and Charles “Lefty” Williams (RF) also played in the outfield when they weren’t pitching

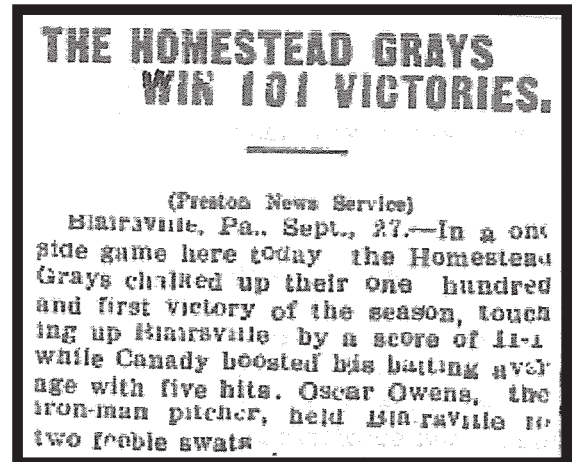
The pitching rotation of Oscar Owens, Walter “Rev” Cannady and Charles “Lefty” Williams dominated competition all season. According to the Preston News Service by July 28th the Homestead Grays had a record of 48-16-3 (.750). The starting rotation of Owens (15 wins), Cannady (14 wins) and Williams (12 wins) were credited with the team’s tremendous success.

The Homestead Grays played excellent baseball in 1923. During the month of June they had an eight (8) game winning streak. Then in July they went 48-15-3 (.762). In late August and early September the Grays had a thirteen (13) game winning streak. In the September 29th edition of the Richmond Planet the Preston News Service reported that the Homestead Grays had won one hundred and one (101) games during the 1923 season.



Richmond Planet
Richmond, VA
09-08-23

The Homestead Grays were considered the Semi-Pro Champions of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia for the 1923 season. In addition according to the Preston News Service, the Homestead Grays were recognized as the “Colored Semi-Pro Champions of the World.”

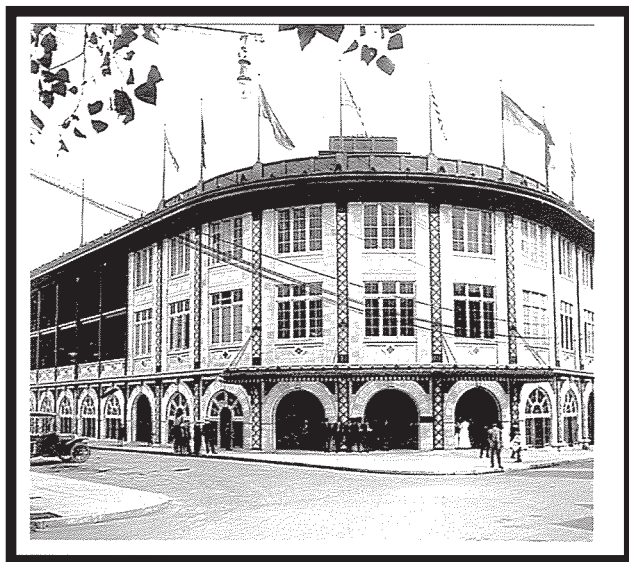


Cannady Collects Five Hits

Richmond Planet
09-29-23

Walter Returns to the Grays

When the 1924 season got underway, Walter Cannady was back with the Homestead Grays as their starting third baseman. Even though the Grays played an independent schedule, they were able to play their home games at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh (PA). Negro baseball super star John Beckwith was the captain of the 1924 Grays. The Grays conducted their spring training in Washington Park which was located in Pittsburgh (PA).



Forbes Field
Pittsburgh, PA

Homestead was led by the hitting of John Beckwith (1B), Walter Cannady (3B), Mo Harris (OF), Claude Johnson (2B), Dennis Graham (OF), Sylvester “Hooks” Foreman (C) and Jasper Washington (3B). The pitching staff for Homestead included Lefty Williams, Finis “Slim” Branham, Dizzy Dismukes and Oscar Owens. Walter Cannady also pitched for the Grays during the season.

Homestead started the season in fine form. By early June they had a twelve (12) game winning streak. On August 2nd the Richmond Planet reported that the Homestead Grays had compiled a won-loss record of 72-16-6 (.818) up to that point in the season.

The Homestead Grays were considered the best independent team in the East for the 1924 season.

Cannady Signs with Harrisburg

Before the start of the 1925 season, Walter Cannady changed teams and signed with the Harrisburg Giants of the Eastern Colored League. Cannady became the team’s starting shortstop. The Harrisburg Giants were owned by Col. C.W. Strothers and managed by Oscar Charleston. The team played their home games at both Island Park (Harrisburg) and the West End Grounds (located at the intersection of 4th and Seneca streets in Harrisburg).

The Giants were led by the hitting of Oscar Charleston (.427) and Walter Cannady (.389). The Harrisburg Giants fielded an impressive starting line-up in 1925 that included:

Harrisburg Giants (1925)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Ben Taylor	.284	OF	Oscar Charleston	.427
2B	Dick Jackson	.325		Rap Dixon	.352
SS	Walter Cannady	.389		Clarence “Fats” Jenkins	.317
3B	John Shackelford	.298			
C	Henry Jordan	.284	P	Charles Corbett	11-2
				Ping Gardner	11-6

Cannady's complete hitting statistics for games against Eastern Colored League and top level competition during the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1925	Harrisburg	71	271	56	107	14	3	13	86	10	.395	.613

Manager Oscar Charleston had the best hitting team in the Eastern Colored League and one of the best hitting line-ups in all of baseball. The Giants compiled an unbelievable team batting average of .318 (813 for 2559) with a .463 slugging percentage.

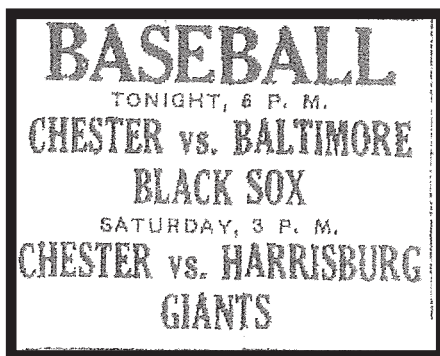
Unfortunately for the Giants, their pitching staff was not nearly as dominant as their hitters. Harrisburg had a disappointing 4.75 ERA which was only fifth best in the Eastern Colored League in 1925. The pitching staff for the Harrisburg Giants included Charles Corbett (11-2), Kenneth "Ping" Gardner (11-6), Daltie Cooper (8-4), Willie Gisentaner (6-4), Wilbert Pritchard (5-4), Charlie Henry (4-3) and Miles Lucas (3-1).

The Harrisburg Giants had an excellent season and ended their Eastern Colored League season with a record of 48-24-1 (.667). They ended the regular season in second place in the final Eastern Colored League standings. They were five and a half games behind the "league" champion Hilldale Club (53-18-1).

Walter Cannady returned to the Harrisburg Giants for the 1926 Eastern Colored League season. During the off season the Giants had lost three key players (Ben Taylor, John Shackelford and Henry Jordan) from their starting line-up. Only John Beckwith (.343) who took over at third base was offensively productive from the three vacated positions. Cannady remained the team's starting shortstop. For the fifth season in a row as a professional ball player Rev hit over .300. His complete hitting statistics for the forty-seven (47) games for which box scores have been found with him playing for Harrisburg are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1926	Harrisburg	60	234	43	74	17	5	2	46	11	.316	.457

Other top hitters on the team in 1926 were Herbert "Rap" Dixon (.349), John Beckwith (.343), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (.315), Bill "Cannonball" Johnson (.302) and Oscar Charleston (.302). As a team the Harrisburg Giants team batting average dropped forty-five (45) points from .318 in 1925 to .278 in 1926. Another major disappointment in the hitting department was that player/manager Oscar Charleston's batting average dropped from .427 in 1925 to .302 in 1926.



Chester Times

Chester, PA
06-25-26

Harrisburg's pitching staff suffered throughout the entire 1926 season with a 5.00 ERA which was only sixth best in the Eastern Colored League. Poor pitching combined with decreased offensive productivity meant the Giants often gave up more runs to their opponents than they scored. Sam Cooper (7-2 w/ 3.67 ERA) and Charles Corbett (7-3 w/ 4.70 ERA) were the team's two most effective pitchers during the season. Far less effective were starting pitchers Ping Gardner (7-9 w/ 4.50 ERA), Cliff Carter (4-3 w/ 8.42 ERA). Daltie Cooper (4.95 ERA), Oscar Charleston (5.63 ERA), Wilbert Pritchett (6.75 ERA) and Henry Gillespie (5.49 ERA) also pitched for the Harrisburg Giants in 1926.

The Harrisburg Giants finished the Eastern Colored League season in fourth place with a record of 27-22 (.551).



Harrisburg Giants (1926)

(Walter “Rev” Cannady, John Beckwith and Cliff Carter)

Walter “Rev” Cannady also played briefly for the New York Lincoln Giants in 1926. The Lincoln Giants were managed by John Henry “Pop” Lloyd. With Lloyd at the helm, the Lincoln Giants were able to sign other top players like John Beckwith (SS), Larry Brown (C), George “Mule” Suttles, Norman “Turkey” Stearnes and Walter Cannady.

Some Negro League historians also credit Walter Cannady with playing for the Dayton Marcos in 1926. The Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) has not yet found any primary source documentation that supports this claim.

Prior to the start of the 1927 Eastern Colored League season, Col. Strothers, owner of the Harrisburg Giants, made a change in the management of the team. Strothers replaced Oscar Charleston with John Beckwith. One of the “new” manager’s first decisions was to move Walter Cannady from shortstop back to third base. Manager Beckwith had a very strong hitting team in 1927. Harrisburg finished the “league” season with a “league” leading team batting average of .301 (697 for 2317). The Giants top hitters were Oscar Charleston (.399), Oscar “Heavy” Johnson (.379), Clarence “Fats” Jenkins (.377), John Beckwith (.353), Walter Cannady (.336) and Herbert “Rap” Dixon (.282).

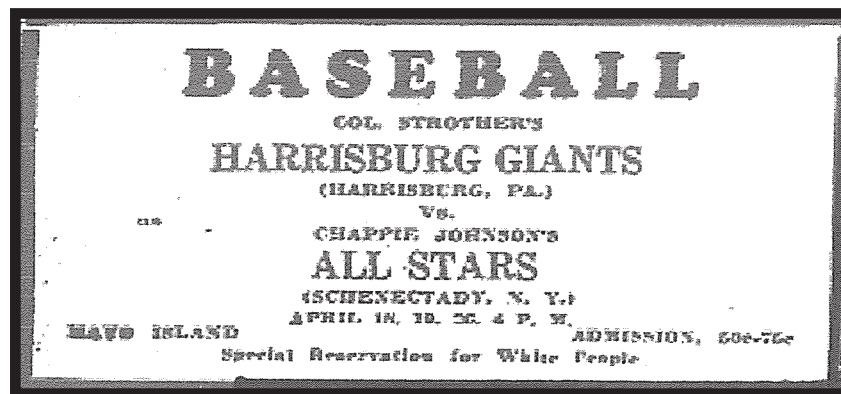
Cannady had an excellent season offensively in 1927. Rev hit .336 with a .506 slugging percentage. His complete batting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927	Harrisburg Homestead	71	271	47	91	18	8	4	58	14	.336	.506

James Riley, Negro League researcher and author, credits Rev with seven (7) homeruns for the year.

With the heart of their batting order being Oscar Charleston, Walter Cannady, Oscar “Heavy” Johnson and John Beckwith, the Harrisburg Giants had the most formidable hitting attack in Negro baseball in the East.

In addition to a very good hitting line-up, the Giants also got solid pitching the entire season. The Harrisburg Giants finished the Eastern Colored League season with a 3.84 team earned run average. This was second best in the “league.” The Giants went with basically a two man starting rotation of Daltie Cooper (16-7 w/ 2.51 ERA) and Cliff Carter (13-9 w/ 3.50 ERA). According to research by John Holway both Cooper and Carter each won 18 games during the 1927 season. John Mungin (3-1), Ping Gardner (3-3), Charlie Craig (1-1) and Sam Cooper (1-7) also pitched on a frequent basis for Harrisburg during the season.



Richmond Times
Richmond, VA
04-18-27

The Harrisburg Giants finished the 1927 Eastern Colored League season in second place with a won-loss record of 38-31 (.551). They were six and a half games behind the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (55-35-1) who won the “league” title. According to Negro League researcher, John Holway, the Harrisburg Giants had a record of 45-31 (.592) in games against all levels of competition.

Post Season Play Against the Major Leaguers

Walter Cannady also played briefly with the Homestead Grays in the post season of 1927. The Homestead Grays had played an independent schedule out of Pittsburgh (PA) and called Forbes Field their home ball park. The Homestead Grays were owned and managed by Cum Posey. Rev played third base for Homestead in their exhibition series against the Major League All Stars. The Major League All Stars had a formidable squad that included Harry Heilmann, Jimmie Dykes, Bing Miller, George Burns, Heinie Manush, Wally Schang, Rube Walberg and Ed Rummel.

Besides Walter Cannady, the post season Homestead Grays team was loaded with super star talent like John Beckwith (SS), Martin Dihigo (2B), Jelly Gardner (OF), Dennis Graham (OF), Vic Harris (OF), Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (C), Mervyn “Red” Ryan (P) and Smokey Joe Williams (P). Negro League researcher John Holway credits Walter Cannady with a .357 batting average for his time playing for Homestead in 1927.

The four game series against the Major Leaguers was played in Pittsburg and started on October 4th with the Major Leaguers winning game one by a score of 7-2. The second game was played

the next day. The Major League All Stars won game two by a score of 4-0. On October 8th the two teams played a double header. The Grays won both games by the identical scores of 5-1.

Rev Cannady Signs with Hilldale

During the off season between the 1927 and 1928 seasons it appears that Walter Cannady signed with the New York Lincoln Giants. However, prior to the start of the 1928 baseball season, Ed Bolden who owned the Hilldale Club traded George “Tank” Carr and Jesse “Nip” Winters to the New York Lincoln Giants for Walter “Rev” Cannady and Mervyn “Red” Ryan. Then Bolden signed Oscar Charleston, Clarence “Fats” Jenkins and Eggie Dallard to increase the team’s offensive production. Daltie Cooper, Joe Strong and John “Neck” Stanley were also signed to bolster Bolden’s pitching staff.

The Hilldale Club played out of Darby (PA) and called Hilldale Park their home field. Hilldale had dropped out of the Eastern Colored League before the start of the season and played an independent schedule. It is important to note that some researchers list Hilldale as an “Associate Member” of the Eastern Colored League in 1928. Otto Briggs who had been a long time fixture in the Hilldale line-up was the player/manager of the team. Walter Cannady was the starting first baseman for the team. Walter had an excellent season with Hilldale and put up the following offensive statistics.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1928	Hilldale Homestead	69	254	60	94	25	5	5	57	15	.370	.567

Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (.356), Oscar Charleston (.341) and Clint Thomas (.312) also had a very productive season for Hilldale.

Daltie Cooper (10-5), Mervyn “Red” Ryan (8-5), Phil Cockrell (6-5), Porter Charleston (6-6), Joe Strong (3-3) and John “Neck” Stanley (2-2) anchored the pitching staff for Hilldale during the season.

According to newspaper reports in 1928, Hilldale started the season off with nine (9) straight wins during their preseason barnstorming tour of Virginia and the Carolinas. Then according to the media Hilldale went on to win 52 of their first 68 games during the season as an independent ball club. The problem with these won-loss reports is that newspaper coverage does not provide a lot of specific details and are often not that reliable. According to research by the Seamheads research team, Hilldale finished their regular season with a record of 35-28-1 (.556). It is important to note that the Seamheads group analyzed primary source documented box scores to compile their records.

Homestead Grays Play the Major League All Stars

Walter Cannady also played with the Homestead Grays in their 1928 post season series against the Major League All Stars. The Grays had played an independent schedule during the 1928 season with Forbes Field (Pittsburgh) as their home ball park. They were considered the second best independent Negro baseball team in the East for the 1928 season. Cumberland “Cum” Posey owned and managed the team. The Homestead Grays had a very strong hitting line-up. They were led by the hitting of John Beckwith (SS), Martin Dihigo (SS/P), Vic Harris (OF), Floyd “Jelly” Gardner (OF), Dennis Graham (OF) and Jasper Washington (1B). Sam Streeter, Oscar Owens, Charles “Lefty” Williams and Smokey Joe Williams anchored the pitching staff for the Grays.

The Major League All Stars were a very strong team that featured Jimmie Foxx, Harry Heilmann, Bing Miller, Jake Quinn, Rube Walberg and George Uhle.



Homestead Grays (1928)

At least three (3) games were played in the exhibition series. On October 8th the Grays beat the Major Leaguers by a score of 9-5 in Fairmont, West Virginia. Another game was played on October 16th in Pittsburg. The Grays won this game by a convincing score of 5-1. Cannady had a homerun in the game. Then on October 28th the two teams met again in Sharon (PA). Walter Cannady collected three hits in the game. With 3,500 fans in attendance, Smokey Joe Williams out dueled Rube Walberg and led the Grays to an 8-4 win. Reportedly several other exhibition games were played but unfortunately we do not have details related to them at this time.

Walter Cannady had an outstanding series against the Major League All Stars. He went 11 for 16 for an unbelievable .686 batting average.

Homestead Joins the American Negro League

Prior to the start of the 1929 baseball season, owners from the major black teams in the East came together to form the American Negro League. The organizational meeting was held in Philadelphia (PA) on January 16, 1929. The six teams that played in the 1929 American Negro League and their season won-loss record were as follows:

American Negro League (1929)

Team	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Behind
Baltimore Black Sox	55	25	0	.688	-
New York Lincoln Giants	40	26	2	.606	8.0
Hilldale	43	35	3	.551	11.0
Homestead Grays	32	29	3	.525	13.5
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	21	50	2	.296	29.5
Cuban Stars (East)	15	41	2	.268	28.0

Negro League researcher John Holway credits the 1929 Homestead Grays with a record of 37-21 (.638) for the season. The American Negro League only lasted one season.

Even though Walter Cannady had played in the post season of 1928 with the Homestead Grays, he was still under contract with Hilldale. This all changed in early 1929 when Ed Bolden traded Rev Cannady and Jake Stephens to the Homestead Grays for Martin Dihigo and George Britt. When Cannady joined the Grays he became the team's starting shortstop. In 1929 the Homestead Grays featured an excellent hitting line-up that included:

Homestead Grays (1929)

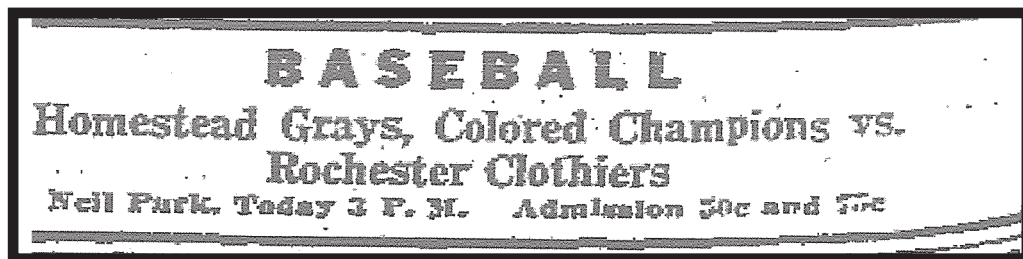
Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Jasper Washington	.353	OF	Vic Harris	.296
2B	Mo Harris	.218		Sanford Jackson	.263
SS	Walter "Rev" Cannady	.355		Dennis Graham	.319
3B	John Beckwith	.364			
C	Buck Ewing	.306	P	Sam Streeter	10-8

As a team the 1929 Homestead Grays posted a .294 (657 for 2235) team batting average in American Negro League play.

Walter Cannady was the team's second best hitter with a .355 batting average and a .511 slugging percentage. His complete batting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1929	Homestead	49	186	47	66	18	4	1	30	8	.355	.511

Sam Streeter was the ace of Homestead's pitching staff with a record of 10-8 and a 4.56 ERA. Smokey Joe Williams (5-7), Lefty Williams (5-6), George Britt (5-3), Eddie Miller (2-1), Webster McDonald (2-0) and William Ross (1-2) also pitched for the Grays in 1929. Besides playing shortstop, Walter Cannady also pitched in three (3) games for the Grays and compiled a record of 1-1 with a 5.18 ERA.



Columbus Dispatch

Columbus, OH
06-09-29

Homestead Grays Play Chicago American Giants in Championship Series

From October 7th through October 10th the Homestead Grays played a "championship" series against the Chicago American Giants. Chicago swept all five games of which four were shut out victories. All the Grays struggled at the plate and Walter Cannady was no exception. He went 4 for 17 for a .235 batting average in the series.

Cannady Joins the New York Lincoln Giants

After a full season with the Homestead Grays, Walter Cannady signed with the New York Lincoln Giants. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd was the player/manager of the team. The Lincoln Giants played their home games at the Catholic Protectory Oval in the Bronx (NY) and Yankee Stadium (Bronx, NY). Pop Lloyd fielded a very strong team who were considered the second best black independent team in the East for the 1930 season.

First Black Baseball Game Played in Yankee Stadium

On Saturday, July 5th of 1930, the New York Lincoln Giants played a double header against the Baltimore black sox at Yankee Stadium. This was the first time that two black teams had played each other in Yankee Stadium. This historic event was done as a fund raiser for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and drew approximately 18,000 to 20,000 fans.

"Let's Fill the Yankee Stadium!"

THE PULLMAN PORTERS AGAIN

2 BIG BALL GAMES!

A Double-Header—the Clash of the Season

NEW YORK BALTIMORE
LINCOLN GIANTS vs. BLACK SOX

Saturday, July 5th
FIRST GAME AT 1:30 P.M.

Positively the Biggest Event of the Year — For
First Time in History the Famous
YANKEE STADIUM
Is Dedicated to the Colored People of Harlem for the Benefit of the
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters by Courtesy of
COLONEL JACOB RUPPERT
OWNER OF THE NEW YORK YANKEES

BETWEEN THE GAMES
100-Yard. Special Invitation, Half Mile, Special Invitation
Novelty Race

100,000 HARLEMITES 100,000 HARLEMITES

CAN, WILL, SHOULD, MUST, BE THERE
CONTINUOUS MUSIC BY FAMOUS BAND

GENERAL ADMISSION:
Grand Stand, \$1.00 Reserved and Box Seats, \$1.50

TICKETS ON SALE AT:
The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Headquarters,
230 West 134th Street

Johnnie Jackson's Restaurant 2220 Seventh Avenue,
Amsterdam News 2221 Seventh Avenue
The Apt 234 West 138th Street
Al Smith's Billiard Room 145th Street and 7th Avenue

"Let's Fill the Yankee Stadium"

New York Lincoln Giants won game one by a score of 13-4.
Baltimore Black Sox won game two by a score of 5-3.



New York Lincoln Giants (1930)

(Left to right – **Clint Thomas**, Orville Riggins, Julio Rojo, Mervyn “Red” Ryan, **Walter “Rev” Cannady**, **John Beckwith**, Luther Farrell, **John Henry “Pop” Lloyd**, Jesse “Nip” Winters, **Charles “Chino” Smith**, Bill Yancey, Bill Holland, Connie Rector, Larry Brown, **Clarence “Fats” Jenkins** and Bat Boy. Mascot in front.)

The New York Lincoln Giants line-up was loaded with outstanding hitters. Fifty-one (51) box scores have been found for the Lincoln Giants for the 1930 season. In these games New York collected 598 hits in 1709 “official” at bats for an amazing team batting average of .350 with a .526 slugging percentage. Their starting line-up for the New York Lincoln Giants was as follows:

New York Lincoln Giants (1930)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	John Henry “Pop” Lloyd	.381	OF	Clarence “Fats” Jenkins	.403
2B	Walter “Rev” Cannady	.330		Clint Thomas	.345
SS	Bill Yancey	.275		Charles “Chino” Smith	.417
3B	Orville Riggins	.343			
C	Larry Brown	.311	P	Bill Holland	14-3

John Beckwith (.486), Julio Rojo (.330) and Norman “Turkey” Stearnes (.425) also appeared for the Lincoln Giants during the season. For the forty-nine (49) games for which box scores have been found with Walter “Rev” Cannady in the line-up for the Lincoln Giants, his complete hitting statistics were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1930	Lincoln Giants	48	178	39	62	12	5	8	50	6	.348	.607

Bill Holland (14-3) with a 4.04 ERA was the ace of the pitching staff. Luther Farrell (9-1), Alphonso Cox (7-1), Connie Rector (5-4) and Mervyn “Red” Ryan (4-4) rounded out the starting rotation for New York. Even though the pitching staff gave up a significant number of runs per game (5.05 ERA), the hitters consistently drove in significantly more runs than their opponents.

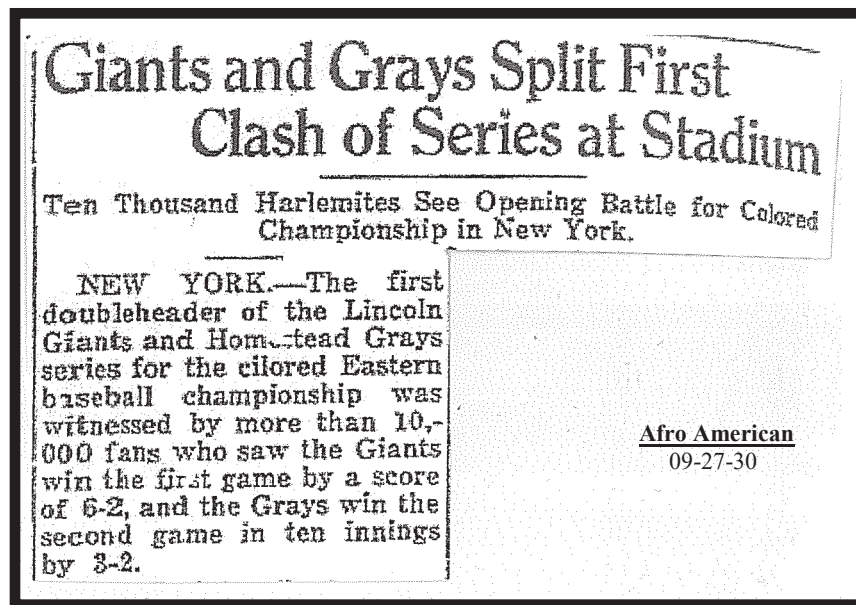
New York Lincoln Giants Play in Yankee Stadium

One of Cannady’s biggest moments in baseball as well as one of the most historic events in Negro League baseball history occurred on July 5, 1930 when the New York Lincoln Giants played a double header against the Baltimore Black Sox in Yankee Stadium. The game marked the first time two black teams played in Yankee Stadium. The game was held as a benefit for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and drew approximately 18,000 to 20,000 fans. The Lincoln

Giants scored a 13-4 win over the Black Sox in the first game. Baltimore won the second game by a score of 5-3 behind the pitching of Laymon Yokely and two homeruns from Herbert "Rap" Dixon. The doubleheader was so successful that the New York Yankees initiated a policy of renting the stadium to the Lincoln Giants and other black teams when the Yankees were out of town on road trips. On August 27, 1930 the New York Yankees and New York Lincoln Giants signed a contract making Yankee Stadium the home ball park for the New York Lincoln Giants for the remainder of their 1930 season. The agreement ran from September 14th to November 1st.

Championship Series vs Homestead Grays

Another highlight of the 1930 season for the New York Lincoln Giants was a "championship" series they played against the Homestead Grays in September. The winner of the series would claim the title of "Champions of the East." Rev Cannady was the starting second baseman for the New York Lincoln Giants. Cannady's triple in game three led to a 6-2 win over Smokey Joe Williams and the Homestead Grays. He had a very good series at the plate. In nine (9) games Walter went 10 for 31 with a double, triple and a homerun for a .323 batting average. Originally there were supposed to have been eleven (11) games played in the "championship" series. Documentation has been found for ten (10) games that the two teams played in the series. Homestead won six (6) games and New York won four (4) games.



A summary of the series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Pittsburgh	Sept 20 th	Homestead	9-1	Lefty Williams	Claude Hannibal
2	Pittsburgh	Sept 20 th	Homestead	17-16	Oscar Owens	Connie Rector
3	Philadelphia	Sept 21 st	New York	6-2	Bill Holland	Smoky Joe Williams
4	Philadelphia	Sept 21 st	Homestead	3-2	George Britt	Red Farrell
5	Philadelphia	Sept 25 th	Homestead	11-3	Smoky Joe Williams	Bill Holland
6	Philadelphia	Sept 26 th	New York	6-4	Red Ryan	George Britt
7	New York	Sept 27 th	New York	9-8	Connie Rector	Smoky Joe Williams
8	New York	Sept 27 th	Homestead	7-3	Sam Cooper	Connie Rector
9	New York	Sept 28 th	New York	6-2	Bill Holland	Smoky Joe Williams
10	New York	Sept 28 th	Homestead	5-2	George Britt	Bill Holland

The New York Lincoln Giants had an excellent season in 1930. Current research reveals that they ended the season with an impressive won-loss record of 41-14-1 (.745). The Lincoln Giants were considered the second best black independent team in the East for the 1930 season.

Walter Returns to Hilldale

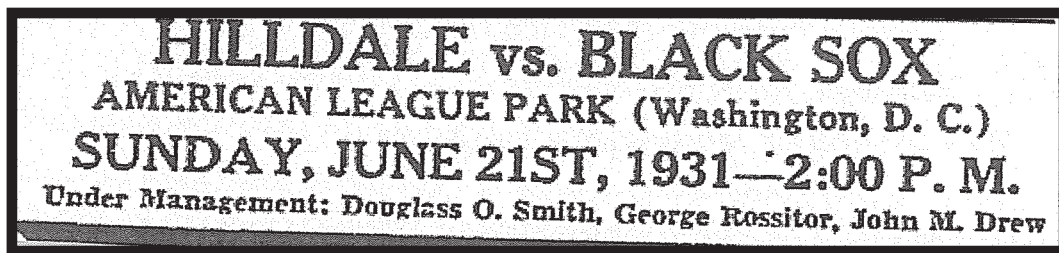
Before the start of the 1931 season, Rev Cannady signed with Hilldale. The team was managed by veteran Judy Johnson who also played third base. There was no formal Negro League in the East in 1931 which meant Hilldale played an independent schedule. Hilldale did play in the integrated Interstate League during the 1931 season. Teams that played in the Interstate League included the following: Baltimore Black Sox, Hilldale, Trenton and Wilmington. Hilldale played their home games at both Hilldale Park in Darby (PA) and Passon Field in Philadelphia (PA).

The top hitters for the Hilldale Club were catcher Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.362), right fielder Martin Dihigo (.312), first baseman Maurice "Eggie" Dallard (.308), second baseman Walter "Rev" Cannady (.306) and center fielder Chaney White (.296). Current research has found forty-six (46) box scores for Hilldale's 1931 season in games against top level competition. In these games Hilldale hitters went 430 for 1525 for a .282 team batting average with a .401 slugging percentage. This was the third best team batting average in the East in 1931.

For the tenth season in a row Walter Cannady compiled a batting average that topped the .300 mark. His complete batting statistics for the 1931 season with Hilldale were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1931	Hilldale	46	160	30	49	12	1	2	28	5	.306	.431

Besides a very good hitting team, Judy Johnson had the number one pitching staff in the East. His starting rotation included Porter Charleston (8-2 w/ 2.80 ERA), Oscar Levis (6-6 w/ 4.30 ERA), Paul Carter (5-2 w/ 2.78 ERA), Phil Cockrell (4-0 w/ 2.27 ERA), Webster McDonald (4-0 w/ 0.97 ERA), Mervin "Red" Ryan (3-0 w/ 0.64 ERA), Jesse "Nip" Winters (2-1 w/ 5.12 ERA) and Bud Mitchell (2-0 w/ 2.89 ERA). In the forty-nine (49) games for which we have complete box scores, Hilldale pitchers compiled an impressive 2.95 team ERA which was the best in the East.



Afro American
06-13-31

With both outstanding hitting and pitching, Hilldale finished the season with a won-loss record of 38-14-1 (.731). The Seamheads research group ranks the Hilldale club as the best independent black team in the East for the 1931 season. Research by John Holway credits Hilldale with a record of 44-16 (.733). Other top teams in the East in 1931 were the Homestead Grays (46-19), Baltimore Black Sox (21-26), and the Cuban Stars (East).

In the post season of 1931, Hilldale played an exhibition series against the Major League All Stars. A summary of the five game series is as follows:

Game	Date	Location	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher
1	Oct. 3 rd	Philadelphia, PA	Hilldale	6-5	Phil Cockrell
2	Oct. 7 th	Fairview, NJ	Hilldale	7-0	Webster McDonald
3	-	-	All Stars	2-0	Freddy Heimach
4	Oct. 14 th	Fairview, NJ	Hilldale	2-0	Paul Carter
5	Oct. 15 th	Philadelphia, PA	All Stars	6-3	Freddy Heimach

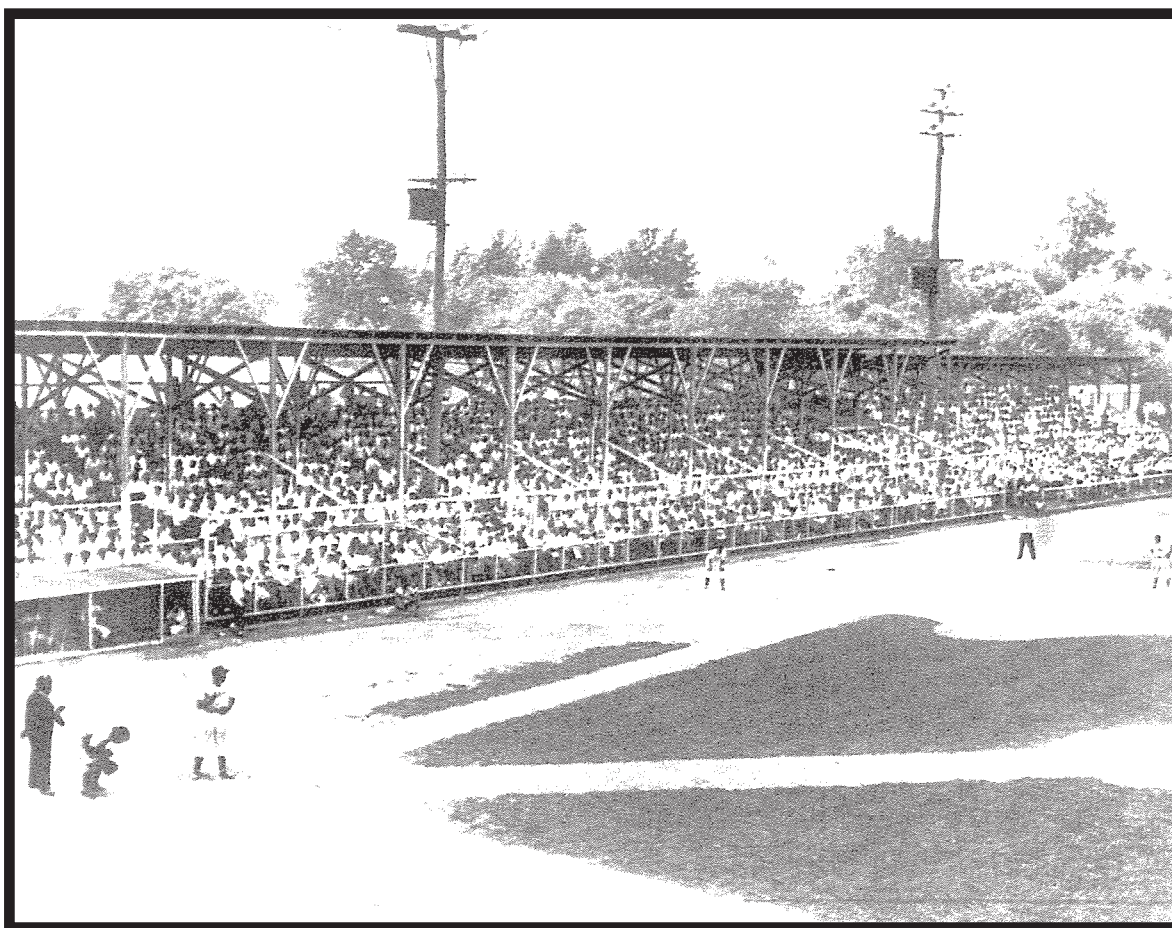
Three (3) complete box scores have been found with Walter playing against the Major Leaguers. In eleven (11) "official" at bats he collected four (4) hits for a .364 batting average.

Greenlee Field

Gus Greenlee built Greenlee Field to serve as the home field for his team, the Pittsburgh Crawfords. The stadium was located at 2500 Bedford Avenue which was just west of the Municipal Hospital and east of what remained of the Lincoln Cemetery.

The construction of the stadium began in 1931 and was completed in time for his team the Pittsburgh Crawfords, to occupy it for the 1932 season. The park had covered grandstands that seated 7,500 fans and high red brick walls that surrounded the entire facility. Reportedly, the ball park cost Greenlee between \$ 75,000 to \$ 100,000 to build. The construction of the stadium took 14 train cars of cement, 75 tons of steel and 1,100 linear feet of steel fencing. A total of 21,000 cubic yards of dirt were excavated in building the ball park. In August of 1932 Gus Greenlee installed a permanent lighting system that enabled the field to schedule night games.

Greenlee Field was the first ball park in America to be built by an African American and serve as the home field for a black major league team. The Homestead Grays also used the facility to play some of their home games. The stadium was demolished in 1938.



Greenlee Field

Home of the Pittsburgh Crawfords and Homestead Grays.

Cannady Splits His Time between Pittsburg and Homestead

During the 1932 season, Rev Cannady played for both the Pittsburg Crawfords and Homestead Grays. Cannady started the season with Hilldale. Cannady's decision to leave the Hilldale Club was very simple – money. Hilldale's new owner, John Drew, had made an executive decision at a corporation meeting that was held on March 31, 1932 which would cost his team dearly. John Drew's plan was to cut the team's budget for player salaries to just \$ 2,000.00 per month. Angered by the salary cuts, Walter "Rev" Cannady and Herbert "Rap" Dixon left the team and signed with Pittsburgh Crawfords. Bill Yancey signed with the New York Black Yankees and Webster McDonald went to the Washington Pilots. In addition Martin Dihigo and Raleigh "Biz" Mackey rejected contract offers and chose to be free agents.



Gus Greenlee
Pittsburgh Crawfords

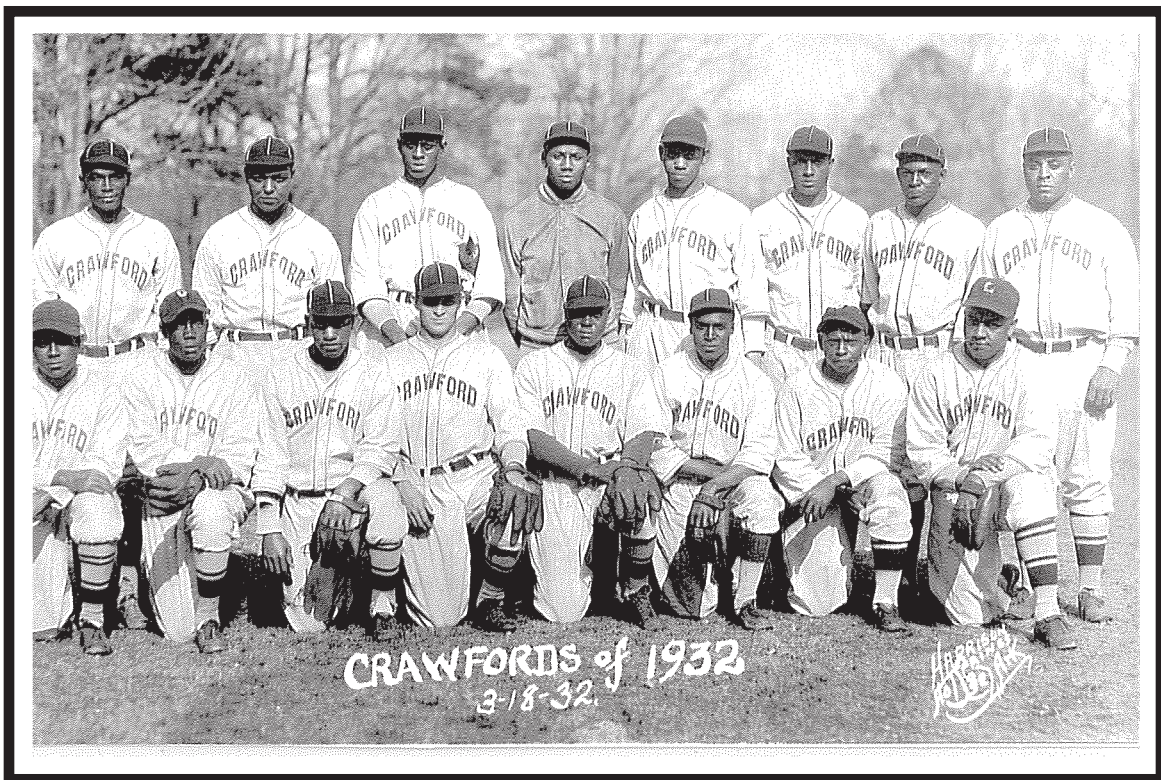
Gus Greenlee, owner of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, had been very disappointed in his team's performance in their inaugural season of 1931. To improve the performance of the Crawfords, he went on a spending spree to sign the best black ball players in the East. Greenlee was determined to make the Crawfords one of the best if not the best team in Negro baseball. He knew that to accomplish that goal he needed to make changes. First to go was manager Bobby Williams who was replaced by Oscar Charleston. Signing Charleston was easy, he simply paid the super star \$ 100 more per month than he made with the Homestead Grays. Then Greenlee signed the following star players: Josh Gibson (C), Walter Cannady (3B), Judy Johnson (3B), Herbert "Rap" Dixon (OF), Ted Page (OF), Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe (P), John Henry "Pistol" Russell (2B) and Jud Wilson (OF). Only Jimmie Crutchfield kept his starting position from the 1931 Crawford's starting line-up.

Satchel Paige (21-9), Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe (15-8), William Bell (8-5), Sam Streeter (7-9), Charles Beverly (5-2) and Harry Kincannon (4-4) handled the majority of the Pittsburgh Crawfords pitching duties.

In addition to assembling an impressive roster, Gus Greenlee also built his own stadium in Pittsburg (PA) that he named Greenlee Field. Owner Greenlee reportedly spent \$ 100,000 on the new baseball park making it one of the nicest Negro baseball parks in the country.

The Pittsburgh Crawfords played an independent schedule during the 1932 season. They ended the season with a record of 54-32 (.628). Gus Greenlee's plan worked. The Crawfords were considered the best independent black team in the East.

During the summer of 1932 it appears that Walter Cannady left the Pittsburgh Crawfords and joined the Homestead Grays. The Grays were managed by both Cumberland Posey and Jud Wilson during the season. The Homestead Grays played in the newly formed East-West League during the 1932 season.



Pittsburgh Crawfords (1932)

(Back row left to right – Benny Jones, L.D. Livingston, **Satchel Paige**, **Josh Gibson**, Ray Williams, **Walter “Rev” Cannady**, Cy Perkins and **Oscar Charleston**. Front row left to right – Sam Streeter, Chester Williams, Harry Williams, Harry Kincannon, Henry Spearman, Jimmie Crutchfield, Bobby Williams and Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe.)

The teams that played in the East-West League, their won-loss records and final order of finish at the end of the season was as follows:

East-West League (1932)

Team	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Behind
Detroit Wolves	25	5	0	.833	-
Homestead Grays	24	15	1	.615	5.5
Baltimore Black Sox	29	27	0	.518	9.0
Cuban Stars	10	12	0	.455	11.0
Hilldale	11	18	0	.379	13.5
Washington Pilots	17	29	0	.370	16.0
Cleveland Stars	4	11	1	.267	13.5
Newark Browns	0	4	0	.000	12.0

Notes: Statistics compiled by the Seamheads research team.
The East-West League lasted only one season.

The Homestead Grays also reportedly played a significant number of games against non-league opponents during the season. Negro League researcher John Holway credits the Homestead Grays with a won-loss record of 54-28 (.659) when “league” and “non-league” games are added together.

Bill Perkins (.384), James “Cool Pappa” Bell (.373), Bill Evans (.328), Leroy Taylor (.323), Jud Wilson (.318), Tom Young (.308), Vic Harris (.307), George Giles (.301) and Walter Cannady (.289) paced the Grays in hitting during the season. Thirty-five (35) game box scores have been found for their East-West League season. In these games the Grays compiled a team batting average of .305 (506 for 1659) which was first in the “league.”

Walter Cannady's combined hitting statistics for the 1932 season with Pittsburg and Homestead are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1932	Pittsburgh Homestead	54	204	30	63	9	6	3	22	2	.309	.426

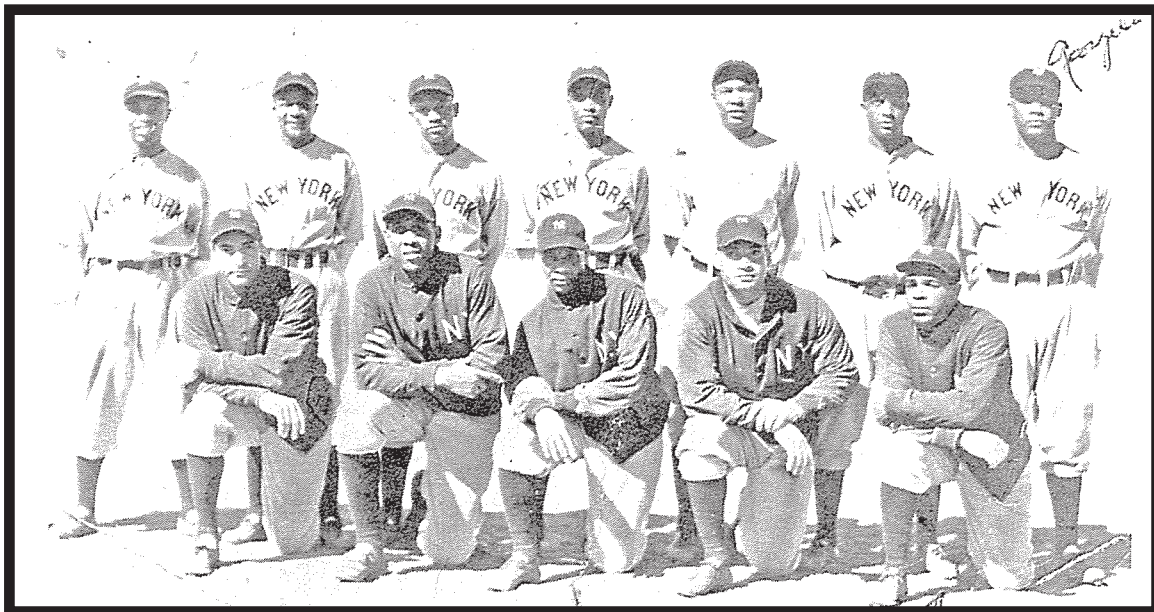
Harry Salmon (7-4 w/ 2.57 ERA), William Bell (7-4), Leroy Matlock (4-0), Bert Hunter (4-0 w/ 2.84 ERA), Ray Brown (4-3), Joe Strong (3-3 w/ 2.22 ERA) and George Britt (2-2) anchored Homestead's pitching staff. Forty-six (46) year old Smokey Joe Williams also pitched for the Grays and went 3-0 with a 1.55 ERA. The Gray's pitching staff compiled a team earned run average of 3.22 which was the second best in the East-West League.

According to research by the Seamheads research team, the Homestead Grays finished the 1932 East-West League with a record of 24-15-1 (.615) in "league" play and a record of 35-22-1 (.614) in games against all levels of competition.

Walter "Rev" Cannady Becomes a New York Black Yankee

The New York Black Yankees were formed in 1931 by James "Soldier Boy" Semler and entertainer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. The original name of the team was the Harlem Stars and they were managed by John Henry "Pop" Lloyd. The team's name was changed to the New York Black Yankees prior to the start of the 1932 season. The New York Black Yankees played an independent team with no league affiliation. In 1933 the team was managed by George "Tubby" Scales and played their home games at Hinchcliffe Stadium in Paterson, NJ.

Prior to spring training for the 1933 season, Walter "Rev" Cannady was signed by the New York Black Yankees. In February of 1933 Scales and his team set sail for San Juan, Puerto Rico to conduct spring training and play a series of exhibition games against the best baseball competition on the island. Some of the key players who made the trip to Puerto Rico were Rev Cannady, Bill Holland, Crush Holoway, Jess Hubbard, Connie Rector, Dave Thomas and Chester Williams.



New York Black Yankees (1933)

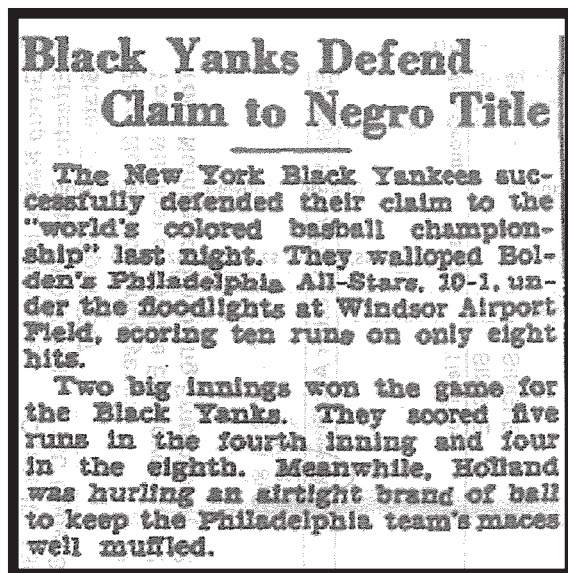
(Back row left to right – **Clint Thomas**, Tex Burnett, Robert Clarke, **Crush Holoway**, unknown, **Walter "Rev" Cannady** and **George "Tubby" Scales**. Kneeling left to right – **Jess Hubbard**, Ted Trent, Willie Burns, Henry Mc Henry and unknown.)

The New York Black Yankees entered the 1933 season with very high hopes. According to newspaper reports the team compiled an outstanding won-loss record of 143-27 (.841) for the 1932 season. With the addition of players like Walter Cannady and George Scales as their player/manager expectations by team owners were that the Black Yankees would dominant their competition.

Currently only limited primary source documentation has been found for the 1933 New York Black Yankees. From the box scores and newspaper articles that have been found the Black Yankees had a star studded line-up that included Dave “Show Boat” Thomas (1B), Walter “Rev” Cannady (2B), John Beckwith (3B), Clarence “Fats” Jenkins (OF). Clint Thomas “(OF) and George Scales (OF).

Fifteen (15) box scores have been found for Rev playing second base for New York in 1933. These box scores revealed the following hitting statistics.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1933	New York	25	99	16	32	4	2	1	19	2	.323	.434



Trenton Evening Times
Trenton, NJ
10-09-33

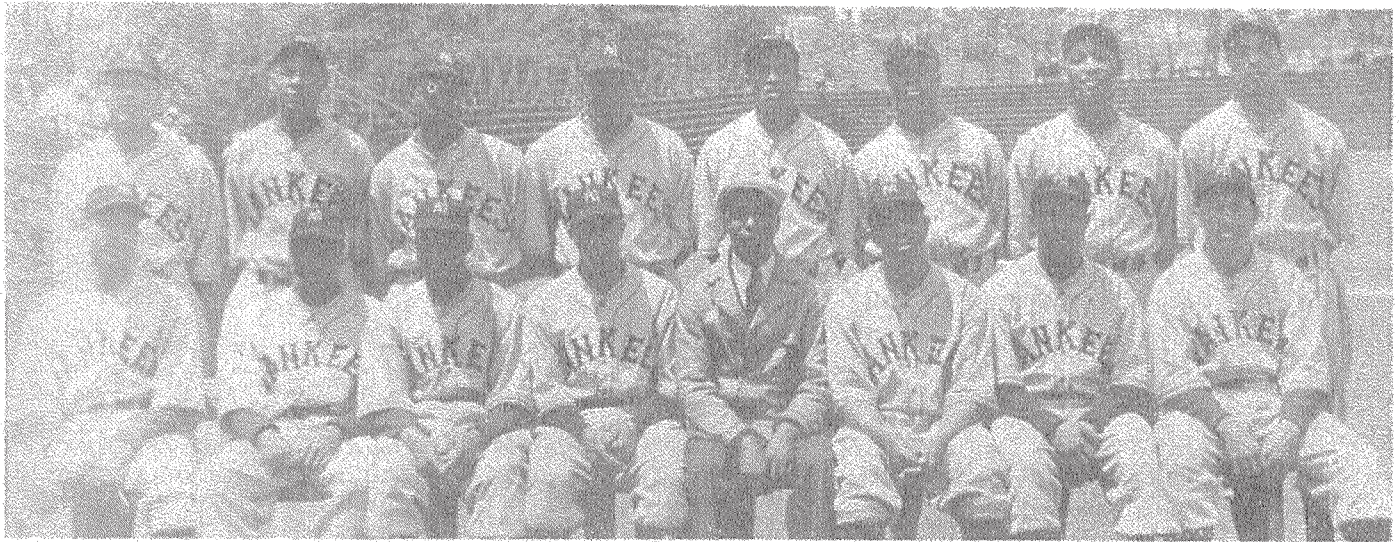
The pitching staff for the 1933 New York Black Yankees included Bill Holland, John “Neck” Stanley, Ted Trent, Cliff Carter, Paul Carter, Connie Rector, Luther Farrell, Roy K. Williams and Henry McHenry.

According to the Seamheads research team the New York Black Yankees were the fourth best black independent team in the East for the 1933 season. On a side note, the New York Black Yankees were billed in the media as the “Colored World Champions” and they defended that title against Ed Bolden’s Philadelphia Stars in October of 1933. According to an article that appeared in the Trenton Evening News of Trenton (NJ) on October 9th, the Black Yankees won the deciding game and the title with a 10-1 victory over the Philadelphia Stars.

Cannady Returns to the Black Yankees

Before the start of the 1934 baseball season, James Semler (President and Secretary of New York) announced that the New York Yankees would become an associate member of the Negro National League. Then before the season started Nat Strong, who in reality controlled the Black Yankees, withdrew the team’s application to join the “league.” Newspaper reports did not provide any details as to why New York did not want to join the “league.” They were, however, in good standing with the “league” because the Board of Directors of the Negro National League gave “league” teams permission to play the Black Yankees during the season.

Walter Cannady returned to the New York Black Yankees for the 1934 season. During the season the Black Yankees primarily played an independent schedule but played at least twelve games against Negro National League opponents. The Black Yankees went a disappointing 2-10 in these games against Negro National League competition. George Scales also returned as the team’s manager and Hinchcliffe Stadium remained as their home field.



Front row—Clark, Spearmon, Rector, Yancey, Pres. Jas. Semier, Holland, C. Thomas, Jenkins. Back row—Scales (Mgr.), D. Thomas, Bailey, Beckwith, Cannady, Williams, Stanley, Blake. Vernon-King, Photo.

BLACK YANKEES OF NEW YORK.
(Direction Nat Strong)

New York Black Yankees (1934)

Some of the other top players besides Cannady on the team were John Beckwith (3B), Clarence “Fats” Jenkins (OF), George Scales (3B), Clyde Spearman (OF), Clint Thomas (OF), George Scales (OF) and Dave “Showboat” Thomas (1B). The starting rotation for New York included Frank Blake, Bill Holland, John “Neck” Stanley, Ted Trent, Connie Rector and Roy K. Williams.

BASEBALL

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

HOUSE OF-DAVID

Under the Arc Lights
VS.

BLACK YANKEES

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

Also the FAMOUS PEPPY'S GAME will be played after the 5th inning

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

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

One of the highlights of the season for the Black Yankees was a game they played against the Brooklyn Bushwicks at Dexter Park in mid-October. What made the game so special was that Dizzy Dean, Paul Dean and Ducky Medwick of the World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals were playing for the Bushwicks. The Black Yankees won the game by a convincing score of 6-0. Approximately 15,000 fans were on hand at Dexter Park to witness the exhibition game.

According to the Seamheads research team, the New York Black Yankees were considered the fourth best black independent team in the East for the 1934 season. However, the New York Yankees were billed in the media as the “Colored World’s Champions.”

New York Black Yankees vs House of David

Middletown Times Herald
Middletown, NY
08-04-34

Cannady Finds a Home in New York

Walter Cannady had never played three complete seasons in a row with the same team during his professional baseball career. This changed in 1935 when Rev signed with the Black Yankees as their starting shortstop.

Sensing the need to make changes to the Black Yankees, the owners of the team replaced George Scales with Bill Holland as the team's manager. Several other changes were made to the roster. Gone were players John Beckwith (3B), Frank Blake (P), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (OF), George Scales (3B), John "Neck" Stanley (P), Ted Trent (P), Roy K. Williams (P) and Bill Yancey (SS)

Some of the top players on the 1935 team were Dave "Show Boat" Thomas (1B), Walter "Rev" Cannady (SS), Crush Holloway (OF), Henry Spearman (2B), Clyde Spearman (OF), Clint Thomas (OF) and Pete Washington (OF). The pitching staff for the Black Yankees included Barney Brown, Jesse Hubbard, Bill Holland, Terris McDuffie, Henry McHenry and Connie Rector

The New York Black Yankees started their 1935 season by conducting spring training in Hot Springs (AR) and then went on a southern barnstorming tour of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia before returning home to New York.



Afro American
06-29-35

During the 1935 season the New York Black Yankees had made application to the Negro National League to become an associate member. Their application was rejected and the Negro National Board of Directors issued an order that no "league" team should play them during the season.

The New York Black Yankees played excellent baseball during the 1935 season. In an article that appeared in the Springfield Republican of Springfield (MA), the newspaper reported that the New York Black Yankees had only lost 62 of the 353 games that they had played over the past two seasons. This would mean that the team had a remarkable won-loss record of 291-62 (.824) over this period. In the July 28th edition of the Springfield Republican, the newspaper reported that the New York Black Yankees had a won-loss record of 73-4-6 (.948) up to that point in the 1935 season. The Black Yankees continued their hot streak that included a twelve game winning streak in early August. It is important to note that newspaper articles were not always very accurate.

According to the Seamheads research group, the New York Black Yankees were the best black independent team in the East during the 1935 season.

New York Black Yankees Join the Negro National League

Prior to the start of the 1936 season, the New York Black Yankees joined the Negro National League and Walter Cannady returned to the team as their starting second baseman. Catcher Bob Clark managed the team during their inaugural season in the Negro National League. New York played their home games at both Municipal Stadium (Freeport, NY) and State Hospital Grounds (Middletown, NY).



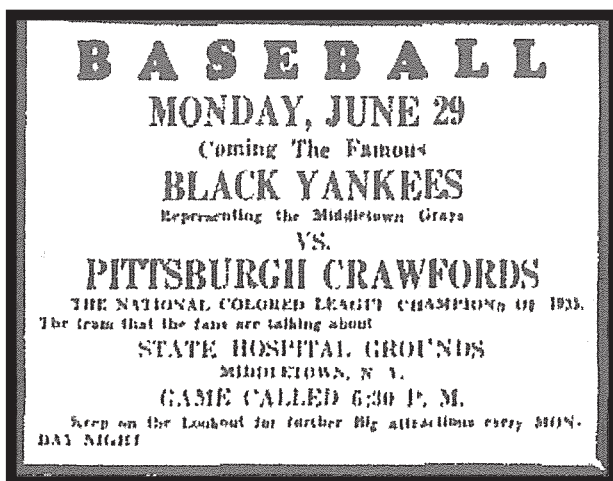
New York Black Yankees (1936)

(Back row left to right - George Giles, Jim Williams, Willie Burns, Henry McHenry, Walter "Rev" Cannady, George Scales, Barney Brown and Robert Clarke, Front row left to right - Clarence Palm, Roosevelt Davis, Bill Holland, Clarence "Fats" Jenkins, Marvin Barker and Jake Stephens.)

During the season the Black Yankees were led by the hitting of Jim Williams (.382), George "Tubby" Scales (.358), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (.323) and Walter "Rev" Cannady (.310). Thirty-two (32) box scores have been found with Rev Cannady in New York's line-up. In these games he went 39 for 126 for a .310 batting average with a .524 slugging percentage. His complete statistics for games against Negro National League opponents were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1936	New York	32	126	35	39	6	3	5	19	6	.310	.524

As a team the Black Yankees finished their "league" season with a team batting average of .280 (312 for 1114). This was only sixth best in the Negro National League.



The starting rotation for New York during the 1936 season was Bill Holland (6-5 w/ 3.18 ERA), Henry McHenry (5-2 w/ 3.33 ERA), Barney Brown (2-4 w/ 3.35 ERA), Roosevelt Davis (2-4 w/ 4.19) and Connie Rector. As a pitching staff the Black Yankees posted a team earned run average (ERA) of 3.69 which was the best in the Negro National League. Connie Rector, Paul Carter and Terris McDuffie also pitched for New York in 1936.

One of the most interesting components of the 1936 season for the New York Black Yankees was that they played several of their home games at the State Hospital Grounds in Middletown (NY) which is approximately 77 miles north of New York City. Oddly enough was that when they played in Middletown the Black Yankees promoted themselves as representing the Middletown Grays.

Middletown Times Herald
Middletown, NY
06-25-36

The New York Black Yankees finished the season with a 21-16-1 (.568) and in second place in the Negro National League. The final standings for the 1936 Negro National League season were as follows:

Negro National League (1936)					
Team	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Games Behind
Pittsburgh Crawfords	48	33	2	.593	-
New York Black Yankees	21	16	1	.568	5.0
Homestead Grays	27	24	1	.529	6.0
Newark Eagles	27	31	1	.466	9.5
Washington Elite Giants	29	34	1	.460	10.0
New York Cubans	22	26	1	.458	9.5
Philadelphia Stars	32	42	1	.432	12.5

After an outstanding performance in their first year in the Negro National League, New York Black Yankees management and fans had high hopes for the 1937 season. Expectations increased when several key players (Sam Bankhead, James "Cool Papa" Bell, Martin Dihigo, Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, Roy Parnell and Lazaro Salazar) went to the Dominican Republic to play and left many teams with significant holes in their roster to fill.

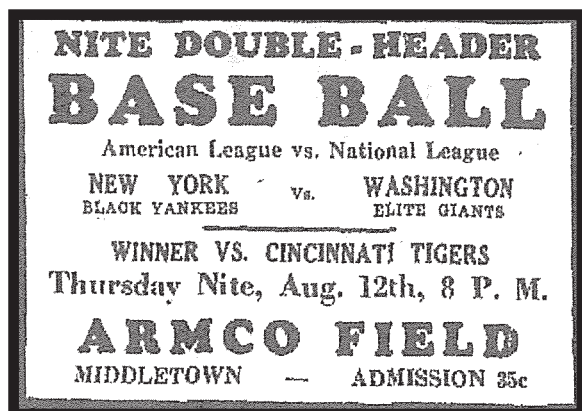
Bob Clarke returned to manage the Black Yankees and Walter Cannady returned as the team's starting second baseman.

One change that the Black Yankees made during the 1937 season was their home field. New York played their home games at Hinchcliffe Stadium (Paterson, NJ), Dyckman Oval (New York, NY) and Dexter Park (Queens, NY).

According to newspaper reports, Walter "Rev" Cannady got off to a very "hot" start at the plate and was hitting .385 by mid-season. He ended the season with a team leading .339 batting average. His complete hitting statistics for the thirty-two (32) game box scores against "league" competition was as follows:

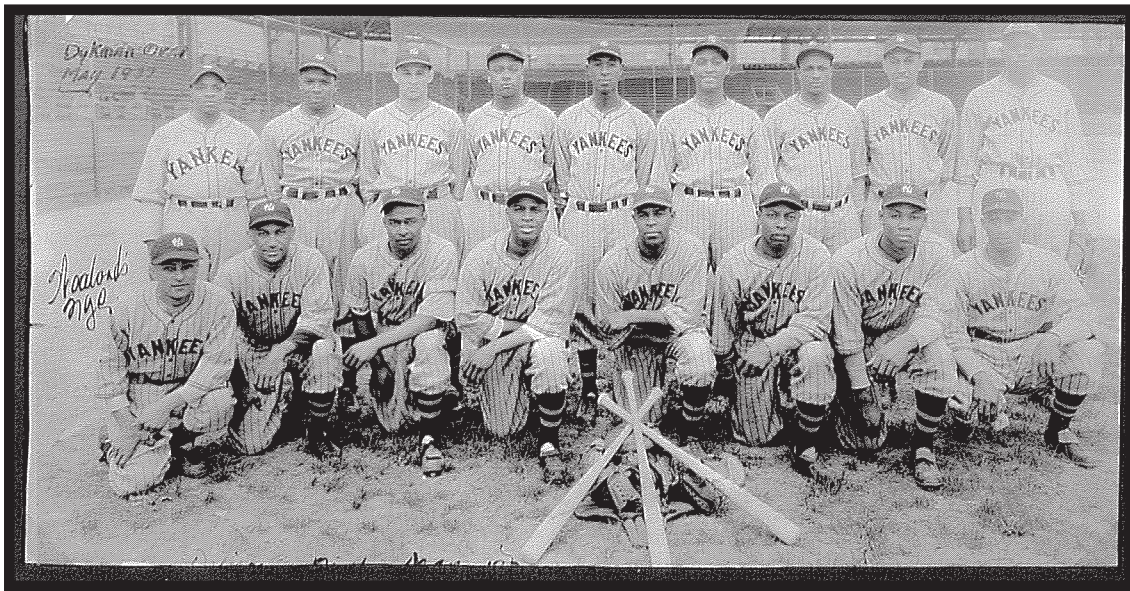
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1937	New York	31	115	19	40	9	1	1	28	4	.348	.470

Other players who contributed offensively to the Black Yankees were Barney Brown (.410 in 61 at bats while playing right field), George Giles (.320), Marvin Barker (.304), Clint Thomas (.300) and Jake Stephens (.300). As a team the Black Yankees compiled a .287 team batting average for the season which was third best in the Negro National League.



Unfortunately for New York the pitching staff was not nearly as effective as their hitters. The Black Yankees posted a team earned run average (ERA) of 5.47 which was fifth best in the "league." Clarke did not have an ace on his pitching staff and had trouble solidifying a starting rotation. Barney Brown (3-4), Harry Kincannon (2-2), Bill Holland (2-3), John "Neck" Stanley (2-4), Roy K. Williams (2-3) and Bud Barbee (2-2) all started games for New York during the season. Roosevelt Davis, Eddie Powell and Jake Stephens also pitched for the Black Yankees during the season.

The New York Black Yankees finished their 1937 Negro National League season with a record of 21-30-2 (.412).



New York Black Yankees (1937)

Cannady Becomes the Player/Manager of the Black Yankees

After a disappointing season in 1937, team owners decided to make some drastic changes. The first was naming Walter Cannady as the player-manager for the 1938 New York Black Yankees. Another major problem was that it appears that the Black Yankees did not have a home ball park at the start of the 1938 season. This problem was resolved in July when the team acquired Randall's Island Stadium as their new home field. To make matters even worse gone from the starting line-up were George Giles (1B), Ralph Burgin (3B), Dave Campbell (2B), Jake Stephens (SS), Clint Thomas (OF), Harry Kincannon (P) and Bud Barbee (P).

Primary source documentation is very sparse for the New York Black Yankees 1938 season. From what we know it appears Cannady struggled at the plate and the Black Yankees did not perform well on the field. Box scores have been found for twenty-three (23) games with Walter in New York's line-up. In these games he went 19 for 82 for a miserable .232 batting average. If the rest of the season was like these 23 games, this would make the 1938 season the worst offensive performance of his career since he started playing professional baseball in 1921. It is interesting that Negro League author and historian James Riley credits Walter with a .321 batting average in 1938. Riley, however, does not provide any specific details like number of games, at bats or hits in his book.

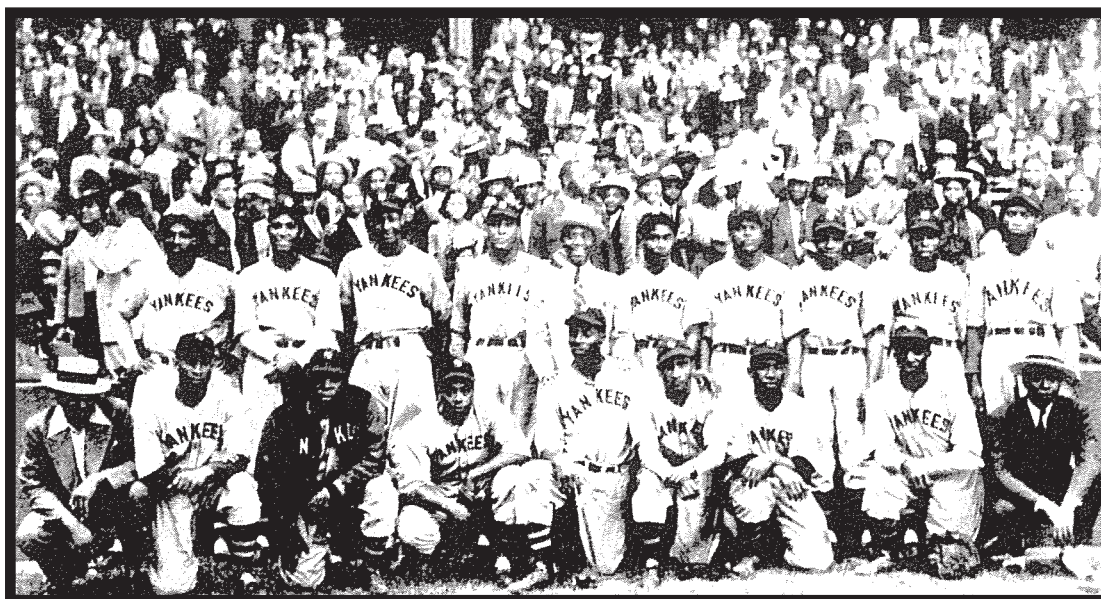
The top hitters for the season were Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (.400), David Campbell (.310), Zollie Wright (.294) and Marvin Barker (.265). Current research credits the 1938 New York Black Yankees with a .252 team batting average which was only seventh best in the Negro National League.

Terris McDuffie (6-3), Barney Brown (3-6), Jesse Brown (2-4), Bill Holland (1-3), Roy Williams (1-1) and John "Neck" Stanley (0-4) all were starting pitchers for New York during the season. As a team the Black Yankees pitchers posted a team 5.44 ERA which was sixth in the Negro National League.

The New York Black Yankees struggled in Negro National League play the entire 1938 season. They finished the season in next to last place in the Negro National League with a won-loss record of 9-25 (.265). The Homestead Grays won the "league" title with a record of 27-10 (.730).



New York Black Yankees (1939)



New York Black Yankees (1939)

(Walter “Rev” Cannady – back row fourth from left)



George "Tubby" Scales

The New York Black Yankees appear to have been successful in their games against "non-league" lower level competition. According to an article that appeared in the April 17, 1939 edition of the Daily Times Press of Burlington (NC), the New York Black Yankees had a won-loss record of 130-40 (.824) for the 1938 season. From this researcher's perspective this record seems to be highly inflated.

The only positive note for Walter Cannady during the season was that he was selected to play in the 1938 East-West All Star game as the starting third baseman for the East squad. He went one for three with a double.

Walter Regains His Hitting Touch

After only one season as the manager of the New York Black Yankees, Walter Cannady was replaced by George "Tubby" Scales as the team's manager for the 1939 Negro National League season. With Walter only having to worry about his own play, he regained his hitting touch during the season. In twenty-six (26) "league" games, Rev went 34 for 96 for an impressive .354 batting average.

Cannady's complete batting statistics in these twenty-six (26) games that have been located for the 1939 season are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1939	New York	26	96	17	34	1	1	3	18	0	.354	.479

Other top hitters for Black Yankees for the season were Homer "Goose" Curry (.369), George Scales (.310), Johnny Washington (.288), Zollie Wright (.287) and Ameal Brooks (.280). As a team, New York hitters compiled a team batting average of .251 which was fifth best in the "league."

The starting pitchers for the Black Yankees included John "Neck" Stanley (4-5), Terris McDuffie (5-3), Bill Holland (4-2), Jesse Brown (1-3), Roy K. Williams (1-2) and Barney Brown (0-3). The pitching staff for New York posted a 4.99 team ERA in "league" games.

With George Scales at the helm, the New York Black Yankees improved their won-loss record to 17-20-4 (.459) in Negro National League action. They ended the season in next to last place in the final Negro National League standings.

Water Cannady Signs with the Brooklyn Royal Giants

Going into the 1940 baseball season, Walter Cannady was thirty-eight (38) years old and many thought his productive playing days were behind him. After seven (7) seasons with the New York Black Yankees, Walter Cannady signed with the Brooklyn Royal Giants to play for them for their 1940 season. It does not appear that Cannady played with them for the entire season. Where else he played is unknown at this time.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants played an independent schedule and were considered a lower level team in 1940. During the season Brooklyn promoted itself as the "oldest organized Negro team in the country." The Royal Giants received very little newspaper coverage during the season.

Some of the top offensive players on the team were Ameal Brooks (OF), George “Chippy” Britt (C/P), Buddy Burbage (OF), Ralph Burgin (OF), Dewey Creacy (3B) and Dave “Showboat” Thomas (1B). The pitching staff for Brooklyn included Bill Anderson, Marion “Sugar” Cain, John Davidson and forty-seven year old Jim Jeffries.

It appears that the Brooklyn Royal Giants started the season on a hot streak. When they arrived in New Orleans (LA) to play the Jax Red Sox, the Times Picayune newspaper reported on May 10th that the Royal Giants had won 23 of their first 30 games. Then on July 3rd the Hammond Times of Hammond (IN) reported that Brooklyn had a record of 40-5 (.889) when they arrived in town to play the Local 210 baseball club. These newspaper reports are a good example as to the fact that often there is significant inaccuracy of statistics reported in local newspapers. In this case the Royal Giants somehow had two fewer losses in July than they did in May.

Walter Cannady also played for the Brooklyn Royal Giants for their 1941 season. The 1941 Brooklyn Royal Giants were owned by Junius Byrd and managed by Dick Lundy. Nat Strong handled all the bookings for the team. Top players on the team besides Walter Cannady were Ameal Brooks (3B), Ralph Burgin (OF), Marion “Sugar” Cain (P), Felton Morrison (OF), Clyde Spearman (OF) James “Lefty” Turner (1B) and Willie Wynn (C).

The 1941 Brooklyn Royal Giants often billed themselves in the media as the “Eastern Independent Colored Champions.” Obviously this was a self-proclaimed championship title.

Cannady Signs with the Chicago American Giants

The Chicago American Giants played in the Negro American League in 1942. The team was managed by the legendary James “Candy Jim” Taylor. The once powerhouse American Giants over the years had been reduced to the worst team in the “league.” Needing any kind of help, Walter Cannady who was now forty (40) years old was signed to fill a roster spot.

Current research has identified thirteen (13) games that Walter played for Chicago. In these thirteen (13) appearances, Rev went 11 for 46 for a meager .239 batting average. As poor of a batting average that Walter had, the American Giants as a team were even worse with a .223 team batting average in Negro American League games.

One of Chicago’s major problems was that their roster included numerous players like Walter Cannady who were well past their prime. This group was comprised of Herman “Jabbo” Andrews (40 years old), James “Cool Pappa” Bell (39 years old), George Britt (46 years old), William “Sug” Cornelius (35 years old) and Alec Radcliff (36 years old).

Candy Jim Taylor’s American Giants pitching staff was virtually a revolving door during the season. In 1942 the following players all pitched for Chicago: Willie Burns, John Huber, William “Sug” Cornelius, Gentry Jessup, Ulysses Evans, Willie Ferrell, Dave Hoskins, Frank Hudson, Francis Jackson, Tommy Johnson, Earl Little, Charlie Shields, Leroy Sutton, Sad Sam Thompson and Ollie West.

The Chicago American Giants played their home games at Comiskey Park. For financial reasons, all of their games were scheduled close to home so that the team would never have to go on any long road trips during the season.

Chicago finished a miserable season in last place in the Negro American League with a record of 7-29 (.194). They were a full twenty (20) games behind the “league” leading Kansas City Monarchs (27-12). According to the Seamheads research team, in games against all levels of competition Chicago was even worse with a won-loss record of 7-36 (.163).

According to research by Paul DeBono and reported in his book, The Chicago American Giants, the American Giants won several games against lower level opponents that do not appear to be included in the Seamhead's research. These seven (7) wins and the game scores were as follows: East Chicago (10-1), Winkler Motors (2-1 and 10-1), House of David (7-3 and 10-2), Helena (AR) (16-5) and the Baltimore Grays (8-2). DeBono credits the Chicago American Giants with a record of 10-21 for their 1942 season.



Cincinnati Clowns (1943)

Reportedly Walter Cannady played briefly for the Cincinnati Clowns in 1943. Cincinnati played in the Negro American League and finished the regular season in last place with a record of 31-57-5 (.352). They were twenty-one (21) games behind the "league" leading Cleveland Buckeyes (38-22-1).

Cannady Becomes a World Champion

Forty-two (42) year old Walter "Rev" Cannady started the 1944 season with the Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns. By the summer of 1944, Cannady was the starting second baseman for the Washington-Homestead Grays. The team was managed by James "Candy Jim" Taylor. The Grays split their playing time for home games between Washington and Pittsburgh. In Washington they called Griffith Stadium their home field and Forbes Field was their home ball park in Pittsburgh.

The Washington-Homestead Grays fielded a powerhouse line-up that included:

Homestead Grays (1944)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Walter "Buck" Leonard	.335	OF	James "Cool Pappa" Bell	.322
2B	Jelly Jackson	.191		Jerry Benjamin	.310
SS	Sam Bankhead	.264		Dave Hoskins	.328
3B	Walter "Rev" Cannady	.328			
C	Josh Gibson	.333	P	Ray Brown	11-1

Walter Cannady's hitting statistics for the 1944 Washington-Homestead Grays were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944	Washington	44	155	24	48	9	1	0	31	5	.310	.381

Also appearing for the Grays in 1944 were Vic Harris, David Whatley and Jud Wilson. The Grays posted a .292 (558 for 1908) team batting average in "league" games. This was the second best team batting average in the Negro National League. They also led the Negro National League with a .412 slugging percentage.

Ray Brown was the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 11-1 and a 2.71 ERA. Ernest "Spoon" Carter (6-4), Edsall Walker (6-4), Dave Hoskins (5-2), Roy Welmaker (5-0), Willie Hubert (2-0), Johnny Johnson (2-5), Garnett Blair (1-0) and Johnny Wright (1-0) also pitched for the team during the season.



Washington-Homestead Grays (1944)

The Washington-Homestead Grays won the Negro National League title with a record of 47-24-3 (.662) in "league" games and were 63-29-3 (.685) in games against all levels of competition.

By winning the Negro National League title, the Grays punched their ticket to the Negro League World Series. When the series started Cannady was the starting second baseman for the Grays. Offensively, Walter had a very disappointing series. He went 3 for 16 with a double for a meager .188 batting average. The Grays defeated the Birmingham Black Barons in five games for the Negro League World Series title.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Birmingham	Sept 17 th	Homestead	8-3	Roy Welmaker	John Markham
2	New Orleans	Sept 19 th	Homestead	6-1	Edsall Walker	Al Saylor
3	Birmingham	Sept 21 st	Homestead	9-0	Ray Brown	Earl Bumpus
4	Pittsburgh	Sept 23 rd	Birmingham	6-0	John Huber	Spoon Carter
5	Washington, D.C.	Sept 24 th	Homestead	4-2	Roy Welmaker	Al Saylor

After several years of playing for mediocre and lower level teams, Walter Cannady finally had the chance to play for a championship team. In addition, at forty-two (42) years old, his .328 batting average as a starter for the Grays was a remarkable accomplishment.

BUY WAR BONDS

Grays Drive Earns Rating As Top Team

If the rest of the Negro National League had its say, it probably would nominate the present Homestead Grays as one of the greatest Negro baseball teams ever to walk on a field.

The Grays, who meet the Cleveland Buckeyes in Red Bird stadium Tuesday night, won the first round title, but they weren't quite the powerhouse they had been in other years. But apparently they just hadn't hit their stride. They blasted off the second round championship in such a merciless style none of the opposition had a chance.

Six men in the line-up are batting over .300. Vic Harris, who has played a part of the games in right field, has the best at .400, then come "Cool Papa" Bell with .359, John Gibson at .353, Dave Hoskins at .336, Buck Leonard at .306, Walter Cannady at .305 and Jerry Benjamin at .303.

Servicemen in uniform will be admitted free to this inter-league classic which is scheduled to get under way at 8:30 p. m.

Cannady Hits .305 for 1944 Season

Columbus Dispatch
Columbus, OH
10-10-44

One Final Season for Rev

Even though he was one of six players in the Grays' starting line-up to hit over .300 for the season, Homestead Grays management did not bring Walter Cannady back for the 1945 season. With no other real options Cannady signed with the New York Cubans who played in the Negro National League. The team was owned by Alex Pompey and managed by Jose Maria Fernandez. The Cubans played their home games at the Polo Grounds (New York, NY), Yankee Stadium (Bronx, NY) and Dexter Park (Queens, NY).

The Cubans were led by the hitting of Martin Dihigo (.306), Tom Parker (.289), Lou Louden (.272) and Fernando Diaz Pedrosa (.252). As a team they struggled offensively all season and ended the year with a .223 team batting average which was last in the Negro National League. In limited action Cannady went 7 for 46 for a .152 batting average.

The pitching staff for the New York Cubans was very effective. They compiled a team earned run average (ERA) of 3.69 for the season. This was second best in the "league." The starting rotation for New York was comprised of Luis Tiant (4-1), Dave Barnhill (2-3), Barney Morris (2-2) and Bill Anderson (1-3). Martin Dihigo, Carrenza Howard, Johnny Taylor and Pat Scantlebury (2-1) also pitched for the Cubans during the 1945 season.

The New York Cubans finished the Negro National League season with a record of 14-24 (.368) in "league" games and a record of 30-32 (.484) in games against all levels of competition.

His 1945 season with the New York Cubans was Walter Cannady's last in professional baseball.

Cannady Travels to Cuba

After the conclusion of the 1926 baseball season in the United States, Rev Cannady signed with the Almendares Alacranes to play for them in the 1926-27 Cuban Winter League. The season started on October 9, 1926 and ended on January 3, 1927. Besides Almendares, the Cuban Winter League also included teams representing Habana, Cuba and Cienfuegos. The season was filled with turmoil. First a rival league by the name of "Triangular" was organized and raided the Cuban Winter League team rosters for some of their best players. Then a devastating hurricane hit the island on November 8th and severely damaged the stadium in Almendares. Lastly, Cienfuegos dropped out of the "league" on November 13th because of the travel costs for teams to come to the city which was located in the center of the island.

Almendares was managed by both Alfredo Cabrera and Armando Marsans during the 1926-27 season. Cannady was one of six Negro League players to play for Almendares during the season. The other Negro League players on the Alacranes roster were Larry Brown (.246), Valentin

Dreke (.284), Lucas Boda (1-4), Manuel “Cocaina” Garcia (2-2) and Willie Gisentaner (0-2). Cannady never got untracked during the season. He had a very poor season at the plate and finished the shortened season with a .200 (4 for 20) batting average. Justo Lopez (.393) and Armando Marsans (.301) led the team in hitting. Mario Pedemonte (3-1) was the ace of the pitching staff.

Almendares struggled the entire season and finished in last place with a record of 11-15 (.423). The Habana Leones won the championship with a record of 19-11 (.633).

Walter Cannady did not return to Cuba until 1930 when he was recruited by Almendarista of the Campeonato “UNICO” Cuban league. Major League pitcher and native Cuban Adolfo Luque managed the team and recruited a roster of almost exclusively Negro League players for his team. Jose M. Fernandez (.409), Clint Thomas (.393), Dick Lundy (.339), Martin Dihigo (.333), Agustin Bejerano (.308), Walt Cannady (.286), John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.236) and Larry Brown (.214) all played the regular season in the United States before going to Cuba for the winter. The pitching staff for Luque was comprised of Negro League players Martin Dihigo (2-0), Isidro Fabre (2-1), Basilio Rosell (2-1) and Henry McHenry (1-1).



**Almendares Park
Cuba**

The 1930 season was extremely short and was comprised of only twenty-five (25) games. It started on November 2nd and ended on November 24th. The games were played at Almendares Park. The final “league” standings were as follows: Almendarista (9-4), Marianao (9-5), Habana (5-9) and Cienfuegos (2-7).

It would be nine more years before Rev Cannady would return to Cuba to play. Rev played in a limited role for Habana which was the worst team in the 1939-40 Cuban Winter League. The Habana Leones had a very poor hitting team and Cannady was no help. He finished the season with a pitiful .182 (12 for 66 with only one extra base hit) batting average. Habana ended the season tied for last place with Santa Clara with a record of 24-27 (.471). Almendares won the “league” title with a record of 28-23 (.549). This was Walter Cannady’s last season in Latin America.

Passing of a Negro League Legend

Walter “Rev” Cannady passed away on December 3, 1981 in Fort Myers (Lee County), Florida. He was 79 years old. Walter was laid to rest at the Woodlawn Cemetery (Block 2 Lot 288 Space 1) in Fort Myers.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1921	Dayton Marcos	Independent
1921	Columbus Buckeyes	Negro National League
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Negro National League
1922	Homestead Grays	Independent
1923-1924	Homestead Grays	Independent
1925-1926	Harrisburg Giants	Eastern Colored League
1926	New York Lincoln Giants	Eastern Colored League
1927	Harrisburg Giants	Eastern Colored League
1927	Homestead Grays	Independent
1928	New York Lincoln Giants	Eastern Colored League
1928	Hilldale	Eastern Colored League (Associate Member)
1928	Hilldale	Independent
1928	Homestead Grays	Independent
1929	Homestead Grays	American Negro League
1930	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
1931	Hilldale	Independent
1931	Hilldale	Interstate League
1932	Pittsburgh Crawfords	East-West League (Associate Member)
1932	Homestead Grays	East-West League
1933-1935	New York Black Yankees	Independent
1936-1939	New York Black Yankees	Negro National League
1940-1941	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent
1942	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League
1943	Cincinnati Clowns	Negro American League
1944	Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns	Negro American League
1944	Washington-Homestead Grays	Negro National League
1945	New York Cubans	Negro National League

Winter Leagues:

1922	Royal Poinciana Hotel	Florida Hotel League
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Two games vs O'Neil All Stars
1926-27	Almendares	Cuban Winter League
1927	Homestead Grays	Series vs Major League All Stars
1928	Homestead Grays	Series vs Major League All Stars
1929	Homestead Grays	Championship Series vs Chicago
1930	New York Lincoln Giants	Championship Series vs Homestead Grays
1930	Almendarista	Campeonato UNICO – Cuba
1931	Hilldale	Five Game Series vs Major League All Stars
1933	New York Black Yankees	Spring Training in Puerto Rico
1933	New York Black Yankees	Series of Exhibition Games in Puerto Rico
1934	New York Black Yankees	Exhibition Game vs Bushwicks w/ Dean Brothers
1934	New York Black Yankees	Exhibition Game vs Farmers w/ Dean Brothers
1938	East All Stars	East-West All Star Game
1939-40	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1944	Washington-Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series

(Note: Negro League author James Riley also credits Walter Cannady with playing for the Dayton Marcos in 1926, Pittsburgh Crawfords in 1936 and Philadelphia Stars in 1941. However, the Center for Negro League Baseball Research has not found primary source documentation that supports these assertions.)

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	Dayton	4	17	3	6	1	0	0	3	2	.353	.412
1921	Cleveland	40	137	26	45	11	2	1	27	5	.328	.460
1922	Cleveland	20	61	13	30	5	1	2	13	4	.492	.705
	Homestead											
1923	Homestead	4	13	2	10	1	1	0	-	-	.769	1.000
1924	Homestead	11	46	10	21	3	0	1	6	1	.457	.587
1925	Harrisburg	71	271	56	107	14	3	13	86	10	.395	.613
1926	Harrisburg	60	234	43	74	17	5	2	46	11	.316	.457
	Lincoln Giants											
1927	Harrisburg	71	271	47	91	18	8	4	58	14	.336	.506
	Homestead											
1928	Hilldale	69	254	60	94	25	5	5	57	15	.370	.567
	Homestead											
1929	Homestead	49	186	47	66	18	4	1	30	8	.355	.511
1930	Lincoln Giants	48	178	39	62	12	5	8	50	6	.348	.607
1931	Hilldale	46	160	30	49	12	1	2	28	5	.306	.431
1932	Pittsburgh	54	204	30	63	9	6	3	22	2	.309	.426
	Homestead											
1933	New York	26	104	17	34	4	2	1	19	2	.323	.434
1934	New York	25	94	11	22	5	0	1	8	0	.234	.319
1935	New York	11	45	11	12	1	0	1	8	3	.267	.356
1936	New York	32	126	35	39	6	3	5	19	6	.310	.524
1937	New York	31	115	19	40	9	1	1	28	4	.348	.470
1938	New York	23	82	12	19	2	1	1	12	1	.232	.317
1939	New York	26	96	17	34	1	1	3	18	0	.354	.479
1940	Brooklyn	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	.500	.500
1941	Brooklyn	3	14	0	5	-	-	-	-	-	.357	.357
1942	Chicago	15	55	4	21	1	0	1	6	0	.382	.455
1944	Cincinnati	44	155	24	48	9	1	0	31	5	.310	.381
	Homestead											
1945	New York	14	46	3	7	2	0	0	2	0	.152	.196
	Total	810	2966	560	1001	186	50	56	578	104	.337	.491

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – “Championship Series” Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1929	Homestead	5	17	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	.235	-
1930	Lincoln Giants	9	33	5	11	1	1	1	5	0	.333	.515
	Total	14	50	5	15	1	1	1	5	-	.300	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro League World Series Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944	Homestead	5	16	-	3	1	0	0	-	1	.188	.250

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – East-West All Star Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1938	East-West All Star	1	3	-	1	1	0	0	0	0	.333	.500

Career Statistics – Hitting (Games vs Major League Opponents)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927	Homestead	2	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	.400	-
1928	Homestead	4	16	-	11	1	-	1	-	-	.686	-
1931	Hilldale	3	11	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	.364	-
1934	New York	2	8	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	.375	-
	Total	11	40	3	20	2	-	1	-	-	.500	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – “Non-League” Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	Cleveland	11	47	14	19	9	2	0	-	3	.404	.681
1922	Cleveland	9	30	4	11	5	2	0	-	0	.367	.667
1927	Harrisburg	4	14	3	5	0	1	0	-	1	.357	.500
1928	Hilldale	3	10	4	4	1	0	0	-	0	.400	.500
1929	Homestead	9	29	11	13	2	1	0	-	1	.435	.609
1932	Pittsburgh	4	18	4	4	1	0	1	-	0	.222	.500
1938	New York	1	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	.400	.400
1944	Homestead	2	9	3	5	1	0	0	-	-	.556	.667
	Total	43	162	44	63	19	6	1	-	5	.389	.599

Career Statistics – Hitting (Winter League Season – Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1926-27	Almendares	-	20	2	4	2	0	0	-	0	.200	.300
1930	Almendarista	-	56	7	16	3	1	0	-	1	.286	.375
1939-40	Habana	-	66	8	12	1	0	0	4	0	.182	.197
	Total	-	142	17	32	6	1	0	4	1	.225	.282

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro League	810	2966	560	1001	186	50	56	578	104	.337	.491
Championship Games	14	50	5	15	1	1	1	5	-	.300	-
World Series Games	5	16	-	3	1	0	0	-	1	.188	.250
East-West All Star Games	1	3	-	1	1	0	0	0	0	.333	.500
Games vs Major Leaguers	11	40	3	20	2	-	1	-	-	.500	-
“Non-League” Games	43	162	44	63	19	6	1	-	5	.389	.599
Cuba	-	142	17	32	6	1	0	4	1	.225	.282
Total	884	3379	629	1135	216	58	59	587	110	.336	.487

Career Statistics – Pitching (Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	SO	BB	ERA
1921	Cleveland	7	-	6	1	-	-	20	21	-
1922	Cleveland	7	45.0	4	1	31	14	28	19	2.80
	Homestead									
1923	Homestead	16	-	14	2	-	-	-	-	-
1924	Homestead	2	11.0	1	1	12	11	7	4	-
1925	Harrisburg	1	0.1	0	0	2	1	0	0	27.00
1929	Homestead	3	24.1	1	1	26	14	7	10	5.18
1938	New York	1	7.1	0	0	10	7	1	2	8.59
	Total	37	-	26	6	-	-	-	-	-

Assessing Walter “Rev” Cannady’s Career

- Walter “Rev” Cannady was an **outstanding hitter**.

Negro League researchers disagree on his exact seasonal and career batting averages, but all agree that he was an excellent hitter. The following chart identifies by research group, Rev Cannady’s seasonal and career batting averages.

	CNLBR	Seamheads	Baseball Reference	Lester & Clark	John Holway	MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia
1921	.353/.328	.328	.300	.287	-	-
1922	.492	.492	.358	.367	.333	.314
1923	.769	-	-	-	-	-
1924	.457	.440	.250	.500	-	-
1925	.395	.389	.398	.395	.399	.397
1926	.316	.272	.310	.316	.260	.238
1927	.336	.336	.385	.352	.321/.357	.323
1928	.370	.370	.336	.341	.289	.298
1929	.355	.355	.320	.320	.337	.336
1930	.348	.330	.355	.348	.269	.269
1931	.306	.306	.223	.295	.261	-
1932	.309	.277	.289	.299	-	.227
1933	.323	.305	.370	.345	.364	.125
1934	.234	.192	.143	.196	.190	.156
1935	.267	.267	.125	.125	-	-
1936	.310	.310	.288	.310	.264	.275
1937	.348	.339	.342	.348	.365	.311
1938	.232	.232	.213	.242	.179	.111
1939	.354	.354	.364	.338	-	.309
1940	.500	-	.500	.500	-	-
1941	.357	-	-	-	-	-
1942	.382	.239	-	-	.349	.382
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	.310	.310	-	-	.222/.356	.404
1945	.152	.152	-	-	-	.000
Career At Bats	2966	2710	2401	2154	-	1496
Career Hits	1001	881	758	710	-	456
Career Batting Average	.337	.325	.316	.330	-	.305

(Note: The reason for the difference in batting averages is that the research groups presented in this chart all analyzed a different number of games. In addition John Holway and the MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia include both “league” and “non-league” games in their totals. In addition, when two different batting averages for the same year are presented it is because the batting averages are for two different teams that Cannady played for during the season.)

Walter Cannady was a **very consistent hitter**. He hit over .300 for the first twelve (12) years of his professional career. It is important to note that we currently have virtually no information on his 1923 season with the Homestead Grays. In addition when he joined the New York Black Yankees in 1933, we do not have enough statistical primary source data for the next several years to fairly judge how he performed offensively.

Our current research credited Walter with having hit over .300 in 20 of the 24 seasons for which we have hitting statistics. We do not have any numbers for the 1943 season.

Current research has identified nine (9) games in which Rev Cannady played against Major League opponents. He had tremendous success against Major League pitching. Rev collected 20 hits in 40 at bats for an amazing .500 batting average.

Walter Cannady was a good power hitter. Our current research has identified 2,961 at bats and 999 hits for a .337 batting average for Rev in Negro baseball games. He collected 292 extra base hits that included 186 doubles, 50 triples and 56 homeruns in these 2,961 at bats for an impressive .491 slugging percentage.

- Defensively, Rev Cannady was a **very good fielder**. He played most of his career as an infielder. Cannady had excellent range and possessed a strong-accurate throwing arm. In addition he could expertly field any position on the field.
- Rev had **good speed and excellent base running skills**. He was particularly adept at stretching a single into a double. He was also known to be able to steal a base when the opportunity presented itself.
- Cannady was an **extremely versatile ball player**. He started his professional career as a pitcher but quickly moved to the infield because his managers wanted him playing everyday to take advantage of his outstanding hitting. Rev defines the concept of an “all around” ball player. He could play anywhere on the field and field that position very proficiently. The Seamheads research team has found 756 box scores for games that Walter Cannady played Negro baseball. A breakdown of these games by the position he played is as follows:

Position	Games Played	Position	Games Played
Second Base	269	Left Field	23
Shortstop	220	Pitcher	19
Third Base	137	Center Field	10
First Base	76	Right Field	1
		Pinch Hitter	1

In addition, the Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) has identified thirty-seven (37) games in which Walter Cannady pitched in Negro baseball.

According to the research presented above the only position that Cannady did not play during his career was as a catcher.

Rev Cannady even managed one season for the New York Black Yankees.

- Cannady started his career as a pitcher. What is often forgotten or overlooked was that he was **very impressive when he took the mound**. His won-loss record in the thirty-seven (37) games for which we have found primary source documentation was an amazing 26-6 (.813).
- He had a **long and well-traveled career**. He starting playing professional baseball in 1921 first with the Dayton Marcos and then the Cleveland Tate Stars. His baseball career ended 25 years later in 1945 when he played briefly for the New York Cubans.

During his 25 years in professional baseball he played for at least fifteen (15) different Negro baseball teams and three (3) different teams in Cuba. One of the most amazing aspects of his playing career was that he changed teams an astounding twenty-two (22) different times. An interesting side note was that he played with the Homestead Grays on six (6) different occasions. Cannady also played for several other teams in post season exhibition games. In short there was always a market for his services and he was never without an owner who was willing to pay him to play for their team.

Negro baseball teams he played for included: Brooklyn Royal Giants, Chicago American Giants, Cincinnati Clowns, Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns, Cleveland Tate Stars, Columbus Buckeyes, Dayton Marcos, Harrisburg Giants, Hilldale, Homestead Grays, New York Black Yankees, New York Cubans, New York Lincoln Giants, Pittsburgh Crawfords and Washington-Homestead Grays.

- Walter “Rev” Cannady was a **winner**. During his career he was a part of thirteen (13) championship teams. They are as follows:

Year	Team	Championship
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Best Black Independent Team in West
1922	Homestead Grays	Best Black Independent Team in East
1923	Homestead Grays	Semi-Pro Champions of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia
1923	Homestead Grays	Colored Semi-Pro Champions of the World
1924	Homestead Grays	Best Black Independent Team in East
1928	Hilldale Club	Best Black Independent Team in East
1930	Almendarista	Campeonato – UNICO (Cuba)
1931	Hilldale Club	Best Black Independent Team in East
1933	New York Black Yankees	Colored World Champions
1935	New York Black Yankees	Negro Champions of the East
1944	Washington-Homestead Grays	Negro National League Champions
1944	Washington-Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series Champions

- Unfortunately, Walter Cannady was **generally a quiet individual but was also known to be moody and have a temper**. Fellow players tended to leave him alone because of his unpredictability. Two examples of inappropriate behavior as a baseball player during his career are as follows:
 1. On July 29, 1926 after losing a ball game to Hilldale, Rev who was so unhappy with how the umpire called the game that he took his baseball bat and smashed out all the windows of the umpire’s car.
 2. Then on June 27, 1929 he attacked an umpire during the game when the umpire called him out trying to stretch a single into a double.

Inappropriate behaviors were not uncommon in the Eastern Colored League. The “league” had a reputation for playing a violent and undisciplined brand of baseball. Some of the other players who were known for having discipline problems and were labeled as “bad boys” were John Beckwith, George Britt, Phil Cockrell, Frank Dallard, Oscar Charleston, Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle, Charles “Chino” Smith, Chaney White and Jud Wilson.

- One major problem in researching the baseball career of Walter “Rev” Cannady is that we are **missing a significant number of his hitting and pitching statistics**. The primary reason for this is that during the time in which he played, newspaper coverage of Negro baseball games was often very poor. In many cases games never even made the newspaper. Currently we have only located statistics for 884 games in which Cannady played in the United States. This represents only about 35 games per season over his 25 year career. Obviously we are still missing several hundred games in which he played. Our continuing research is finding more articles, box scores and line scores for games in which Rev Cannady played. The key is continuing to research.

It should also be noted that several other Negro League researchers credit Walter “Rev” Cannady for playing for teams for which we have not found primary source documentation. These teams and the year he reportedly played for them are as follows: Dayton Marcos (1926), Pittsburgh Crawfords (1936) and Philadelphia Stars (1941). We are continuing our research to confirm these reports.

- Lastly, another research related problem encountered by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research in researching the career of Walter Cannady was that **his name was often misspelled in the newspapers**. The most common error that was found on numerous occasions was that instead of identifying Walter’s last name as “Cannady” it was given as “Kennedy.” This was specifically a problem during the 1930 season when he was playing for the New York Lincoln Giants. The same problem occurred frequently in 1935 when he was a member of the New York Black Yankees.

Selected Career Highlights

- Walter “Rev” Cannady was an outstanding hitter. He compiled a .337 batting average and a .491 slugging percentage against Negro baseball opponents. In games against all levels of competition, Cannady had a .336 batting average and a .487 slugging percentage.
- Amazingly, Walter hit over .300 in his first thirteen (13) seasons in Negro baseball.
- Currently we have found eleven (11) games in which Walter played against Major League competition. In these games he went 20 for 40 for an amazing .500 batting average. In short, Rev could hit Major League pitching.
- He played on the 1923 Homestead Grays team who were considered the “Semi-Pro Champions of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.” The Grays were also billed as the “Colored Semi-Pro Champions of the World.”
- As a pitcher, Cannady went 14-2 (.875) for the 1923 Homestead Grays.
- He played for the 1924 Homestead Grays who were considered the best black team in the East.
- In 1927 Walter Cannady was part of the Harrisburg line-up that included Oscar Charleston (.399), Oscar “Heavy” Johnson (.379), John Beckwith (.353) and himself (.336) that was considered probably of the best middle part of one team’s batting order during the early days of Negro League baseball.
- Cannady was the starting first baseman for the Hilldale team who were considered the best black baseball team in the East for the 1928 season.
- In 1929 Walter “Rev” Cannady was selected to the first team of the Negro League All Star team as selected by the Afro American newspaper. He represented the Homestead Grays as the team’s second baseman.
- Walter Cannady was a member of the Almendarista team that won the 1930 Cuban Campeonato UNICO League championship.
- In 1933 Cannady was named to Cumberland Posey’s All Negro League All Star team as the team’s starting second baseman. Some of the other “big” names on the team were Oscar Charleston (1B), Josh Gibson (C), Satchel Paige (P), Norman “Turkey” Stearns and Willie Wells (SS).
- Cannady was a member of the 1933 New York Black Yankees who were billed as the “Colored World Champions” and the 1935 New York Black Yankees who were promoted as the “Negro Champions of the East.”
- Rev was selected to play in the 1938 East-West All Star game.
- Walter Cannady was a member of the 1944 Homestead Grays team that won the Negro National League title and then defeated the Birmingham Black Barons in the Negro League World Series.
- Cannady played professional baseball for twenty-five (25) seasons from 1921 through 1945 and is regarded as one of the best players of his day.
- Walter Cannady was on the preliminary ballot in the voting for induction in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006. Sadly, Walter did not make the “cut.”

Walter Cannady Plays for the Pittsburgh Crawfords

Even though the Pittsburgh Crawfords were only in their second year of operation, team owner Gus Greenlee spared no expense and signed a star studded roster for the 1932 season. Their starting line-up was as follows:

Pittsburgh Crawfords (1932)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Oscar Charleston	.339	OF	Jud Wilson	.317
2B	John Russell	.260		Herbert "Rap" Dixon	.301
SS	Walter Cannady	.317		Ted Page	.301
3B	Judy Johnson	.333			
C	Josh Gibson	.307	P	Satchel Paige	21-9

The starting line-up included five players (Charleston, Gibson, Johnson, Paige and Wilson) who would be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

By the end of the season, the Pittsburgh Crawfords were considered the best black independent team in the East.



Pittsburgh Crawfords (1932)

(Back row left to right – Benny Jones, L.D. Livingston, **Satchel Paige**, **Josh Gibson**, Ray Williams, **Walter “Rev” Cannady**, Cy Perkins and **Oscar Charleston**. Front row left to right – Sam Streeter, Chester Williams, Harry Williams, Harry Kincannon, Henry Spearman, Jimmie Crutchfield, Bobby Williams and Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe.)