

Forgotten Heroes: Charles Blackwell



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

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**St. Louis Giants
1916**

The St. Louis Giants were formed in 1906 when Charles Mills took over a local amateur ball club in St. Louis. Mills would take his sandlot ball club to becoming an inaugural member of the Negro National League in 1920. Charles Mills and the St. Louis Giants are credited with bringing professional black baseball to St. Louis.



**St. Louis Giants
1916**

(Standing left to right - Bill Gatewood, William Drake, Harry Kimbro, Tullie McAdoo, Sam Bennett and Lee Wade.
Seated left to right - McKinley "Bunny" Downs, Frank Warfield, Dan Kennard, Charles Mills,
Richard "Dick" Wallace, Jimmie Lyons and Charles Blackwell)

Charles Henry Blackwell was born on December 12, 1894 in the small town of Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky.

Blackwell stood five feet eight inches tall and weighed approximately 150 pounds during his playing career. He threw right handed but batted from the left hand side of the plate.

Charles Blackwell was an excellent contact hitter. He had an extraordinary eye for the ball and rarely struck out. Reportedly, he was an extremely disciplined hitter at the plate and had no problem waiting on his pitch to hit. In addition to hitting for average he also hit for power. During his Negro baseball career he posted a .323 lifetime batting average with a very impressive .507 slugging percentage. In the prime years of his career (1919-1926), Charles had a .333 (647 for 1944) batting average. His best seasons in Negro baseball were 1919 (.376), 1921 (.402) and 1922 (.382).

Defensively, Charles was an out fielder. He possessed outstanding speed which gave him exceptional range in chasing down fly balls. Blackwell routinely robbed opposing hitters from an extra base hit.

He also possessed excellent speed on the base paths and was a very smart runner. Over his career Charles got more than his fair share of stolen bases.

Blackwell's obituary described his playing abilities as follows:

“ He was to baseball what the “killer” is to prize fighting, a dangerous slugger, who was dynamite to a pitcher every time he walked up to the plate. Not only was he a great natural hitter from the left side which enabled him to often connect for two homers a game, but he was nearly everything in baseball well – fielding, running the bases and outwitting his rivals.”

Mississippi Weekly
Jackson, Mississippi

Blackwell's professional baseball career started in 1915 with the West Baden Sprudels and ended in 1929 when he played with the Nashville Elite Giants. The majority of his career was played in St. Louis with the Giants and Stars. During his career he also played for Bowser's ABC's, Indianapolis ABC's, Jewell's ABC's, Birmingham Black Barons, Detroit Stars and Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. He also played two seasons of winter baseball in Cuba with the Bacharach Giants and Habana.

Negro League Career

Charles Blackwell began his professional baseball career in 1915 when he was signed to play in the outfield for the West Baden Sprudels. The team was owned and operated by the Burnett-Pollard-Rogers Baseball Club Company. Edward Rogers was the general/business manager for the baseball team and ran the daily operations. The Sprudels were often associated with the West Baden Resort Hotel located in West Baden Springs, Indiana. Sprudels' ball games were a favorite entertainment venue for the resort's hotel guests. The team's name was derived from the bottled sparkling water (Sprudel Water) that was produced at the hotel. Chappie Johnson managed the team and also played first base.

Offensively, the Sprudels appear to have been a relatively weak hitting team. Otto Briggs (.308), Charles Blackwell (.279) and Dan Kennard (.267) led the team in hitting during the season. Blackwell was the team's starting center fielder and batted in the lead-off spot. The team's roster also included Bingo De Moss (2B), McKinley “Bunny” Downs (SS) and Ted Kimbro (SS/2B). Frank Casey, Lawrence Simpson, Hub Miller, Squire Moore, George Dandy and Pat Dougherty all pitched for West Baden in 1915. Casey, Miller and Simpson were considered the best pitchers on the team



West Baden Resort
West Baden Springs, IN

The Sprudels got off to a fast start in 1915. They defeated Salem 9-0 and then beat the Pekin Tigers in two straight games by the scores of 18-2 and 21-8. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Cincinnati Post of Cincinnati (OH) on August 17th the West Baden Sprudels had already won fifty (50) games up to that point in the season. On September 18th the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis (IN) published line scores for the West Baden Sprudels where they had recorded their sixty-seventh (67) victory by beating Walnut Hill 6 to 4 and their sixty-eighth (68) win when they defeated Seymour 8 to 5. Then the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis, Indiana published a lengthy article about the team on October 23rd. This article revealed the following facts about West Baden's season: that the West Baden Sprudels season had opened on April 1st, that over the course of the season "they played more games than any other colored club in the country" and that the Sprudels were still playing ball into late October. The Freeman article went on to say that the Sprudels had "played every club of any note in the West." The article also identified Charles Blackwell as the "main stay of the outfield."

During the 1915 season, the Sprudels were considered one of the better teams in the West. Some of the other top teams in the West were the Indianapolis ABC's, Chicago American Giants, Chicago Black Sox, Chicago Giants, St. Louis Giants, Cuban Stars (West) and Louisville White Sox.

Charles Blackwell also played briefly for the Indianapolis ABC's during September of 1915.

Reportedly players Charles Blackwell, George Brown, Leo Hill, Hub Miller and Burling White all spent the winter in West Baden Springs.

Current research indicates that Charles Blackwell started the 1916 baseball season with Bowser's ABC's. Tom Bowser who was a local white bail bondsman was the owner and business manager of the team. They played their home games at Northwestern Park in Indianapolis (IN). Besides Blackwell (OF) some of the top players on the 1916 Bowser's ABC's were Todd Allen (3B), Bingo De Moss (2B), Dan Kennard (C), Archie Pate (OF) and Robert "Whip" Prior (P). Two box scores for Blackwell playing for the Bowser's ABC's in May of 1916 have been found. Charles went five for seven in these two games. He had a double, triple, three runs scored and two runs batted in these two games.

SPRUDELS OUTHIT SEYMOUR.

WEST BADEN, Ind., Sept. 14.—The Sprudels outhit Seymour again and Casey nearly scored a shutout. The same teams play Wednesday. Score:

Sprudels	---	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	*—5	8	0
Seymour	---	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0—1	5	3

Batteries—(Seymour) Fletcher and Wagner; (Sprudels) Casey and White.

WIN SIXTY-SEVENTH VICTORY.

WEST BADEN, Ind., Sept. 12.—The Sprudels won their sixty-seventh victory on their own grounds over the Walnut Hill team from Cincinnati today. Parrott pitched well, but the fielders lacked team work. Score:

Walnut Hill	---	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0—1	3	4
Sprudels	---	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1*—6	3	1

Batteries—Parrott and Murray; Miller and White.

ANOTHER FOR SPRUDELS.

WEST BADEN, Ind., Sept. 15.—The Sprudels walloped Seymour in the last game of a series. Score:

Seymour	---	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0—5	8	4
Sprudels	---	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	1*—3	11	?	

Freeman
09-18-15

Blackwell Joins the St. Louis Giants

Shortly after the start of the 1916 season, Charles Blackwell was signed by the St. Louis Giants. The St. Louis Giants were formed in 1910 by Charles Mills who had a history of financial problems just trying to field a team throughout their career. The St. Louis Giants always seemed to have money troubles, the team was always looking for a ball park to call their home field and they experienced constant changes in ownership/financial backing.

As had been his problem for years, Charles Mills had difficulty with finances and in locating a home field for his team for the upcoming 1916 season. When the 1916 season got underway on April 23rd with a game against Brock's All Stars, an investment group headed up by Richard D. Barrett controlled the St. Louis Giants. Barrett's group had wanted to lease Federal Park but Phil Ball who owned the stadium wanted a payment of \$ 10,000 for the season. Barrett's group offered \$ 7,500.00 which Ball rejected. When that deal fell through Barrett attempted to lease Athletic Park but it required too many repairs (at least \$ 5,000) to be a feasible site for the Giants.

BASE BALL	<h1 style="margin: 0;">St. Louis Giants vs. Kenny-Doughertys</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 6-7 GAME CALLED AT 3:15 SHARP Ladies accompanied by Gentlemen admitted free Saturdays</p>	FEDERAL LEAGUE PARK GRAND & LAUREL
Bleachers 25¢ Pavilion 50¢ Grand Stand 50¢ Boxes 75¢	Address of Organization by RICHARD D. BARRETT, MGR. 3031 LAUREL AVE. PHONO, Rm. Central, 2677-B	

St. Louis Argus
05-06-16

St. Louis ended up playing their home games at several different ball parks that included Federal League Park (only a very few games), Brock's Park, Central High School Athletic Field, St. Louis University campus and the Christian Brothers College Diamond during the 1916 season.

Ed Brock and Charles Mills regain control of the St. Louis Giants

By the end of May of 1916 Ed Brock who had formerly financially backed the team and Charles Mills had taken over the operation of the St. Louis Giants from Richard Barrett's investor group. Barrett's St. Louis Giants team never got untracked during the first part of the season. In less than two month's of ownership, Richard Barrett had taken a championship team and turned them into a struggling team with a losing record.

MILLS AGAIN TO MANAGE THE GIANTS

REMANUED

Crafty Little **Hoss** Ball General Will
Pilot the Team for Ed Brock.
the South St. Louis Magnate

First Game Sunday at Brock's Park—
New Faces in the Line Up—Strong
Teams Already Booked

In addition to taking over the financial controls of the Giants that made Ed Brock the principle owner of the team, Brock also proposed forming the St. Louis American Amusement Association with Charles Mills serving as the organization's business manager. Felix "Dick" Wallace was the team captain for the 1916 St. Louis Giants season.

The top hitters on the 1916 St. Louis Giants team were Frank Warfield (.343), Sam Bennett (.327), Jimmie Lyons (.289), Charlie Blackwell (.278) and Ted Kimbro (.276). Their roster also included Lorenzo Cobb (C), Bill Handy (2B), Joe Hewitt (OF), Dan Kennard (C), Tullie McAdoo (1B), Dick Wallace (SS) and William "Spec" Webster (C). Research by John Holway credits Charles Blackwell with a .321 batting average for the 1916 season.

St. Louis Argus
05-26-16



St. Louis Giants (1916)

(Back row left to right – Bill Gatewood, William Drake, Ted Kimbro, Tullie McAdoo, Sam Bennett and Lee Wade.
Seated left to right – McKinley “Bunny” Downs, **Frank Warfield**, Dan Kennard, **Charles Mills**, **Dick Wallace**,
Jimmie Lyons and **Charles Blackwell**)

Bill Gatewood was the ace of the pitching staff in 1916. The Giants’ pitching staff also included Big Bill Drake, Jimmie Lyons, Melton (no first name), Hub Miller, Moore (no first name), Robert Prior, Robert Saulter, Lee Wade, Frank Wickware and Andrew “String Bean” Williams during the season.

The St. Louis Giants played an extensive schedule in 1916 that continued on into October. Mills closed out the season for his team with a doubleheader against Dick Slack’s East St. Louis Giants (a white team) at Federal League Park. The games were played on October 15th. The double header was played for the title of Missouri-Illinois baseball championship. Slack’s team needed to win both games to claim the title. Mills squad only needed one win to bring home the championship because Mills team had beaten Slack’s squad a week earlier by the score of 3-2. There was also reportedly a \$ 500 side bet between Mills and Slack on the outcome of the series. A newspaper article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on October 29th seemed to indicate that Charles Mills’ St. Louis Giants had prevailed over the East St. Louis Giants and that Mills’ team had won the “championship.”

The won-loss record for the 1916 St. Louis Giants can be deceiving. It is important to note that the team started the season under the ownership and management of an investor group headed up by Richard Barrett. Under Barrett’s leadership the team played very poorly and their won-loss record reflected that fact. However, when Ed Brock and Charles Mills took over the team, the St. Louis Giants performed significantly different. The results of thirty-five (35) games have been found with Charles Mills as the manager. In these 35 games, the St. Louis Giants went 24-10-1 (.706). There is no question Mills turned around the team once he was in charge. The St. Louis Giants finished the 1916 season as one of the top teams in the West. Other leading teams in the West in 1916 were Chicago American Giants (40-26-3), Indianapolis ABC’s (23-18-3), Cuban Stars West (35-34-2), Bowser’s ABC’s and the All Nations (record not available).

BASEBALL

GIANTS WILL OPEN SEASON AT
FEDERAL PARK, MAY 8

Phil Ball Tries to Keep Negroes Out
of Park at Grand and Laclede.
Brock Enjoins Him From Removing
Seats. Giants Have Five
Year Lease

The St. Louis Giants have booked several games with local teams for the near future, but Mr. Brock says the championship schedule will not open until May 8, when the Giants will face the famous Cuban Stars at Federal Park.

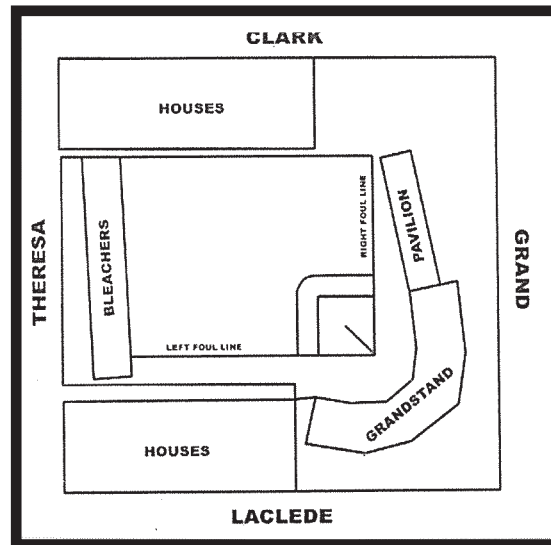
Brock has been having some trouble with Phil Ball, owner of the Browns, who it seems is anxious to keep the Negro team out of the park at Grand and Laclede. Brock has signed the leading stars on the diamond for this season and the Giants bid fair to outdraw the American League Club. Ball's lease expires April 9 and to handicap the Colored club he attempted to remove the seats from the grandstand. This being against the law and contrary to agreement with Mr. Hanlan, the owner, he was enjoined by Brock. Brock has secured a five year lease beginning April 10. He offered to take the park earlier and pay Ball for the time, but this was refused. However, everything will be O. K. The Giants will play the East Saint Louis Giants on the east side grounds Sunday, Easter, at 3 p. m. Joe Hewett will be captain of the team until Captain Pettes and the cast-off players arrive next week.

St. Louis Giants Start 1917 Season with a Disaster

Over the years Charles Mills had numerous financial partners. The two primary reasons for this was that Mills never had the capital of his own to run a first class team and he was never able to secure a long term ball park for the team.

Before the start of the 1917 baseball season, the Freeman newspaper of Indianapolis published a story that Charles Mills would not manage the St. Louis Giants for the 1917 season. The Freeman reported that the team would be managed by a "syndicate of well-known colored men." Former Giants' owner Richard D. Barrett was the business manager of the investment group.

The status of the management and ownership of the St. Louis Giants was clarified on April 6th when the St. Louis Argus newspaper reported that Ed Brock (white businessman) would run the team. The rationale for Ed Brock taking over the St. Louis Giants was that he held a five year lease on Federal League Park and this would be a perfect place for the Giants to play their home games. Federal League Park was built in 1914 to serve as the home of the St. Louis Terriers of the Federal League which only lasted two years. Federal League Park is sometimes referred to as Handlan's Park or Steinger Field. The park was located at the corner of Grand Avenue and Laclede Avenue.



Federal League Park
Site Plan

St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat
01-30-14

St. Louis Argus
04-16-17



St. Louis Argus
05-11-17

Just as in 1916, the St. Louis Giants faced a significant complication going into the 1917 season. Philip Ball, owner of the St. Louis Browns, whose lease of Federal League Park expired the day before Ed Brock's lease on the stadium went into effect, removed all the seats in the grandstand area of the stadium. Not wanting a black team playing in Federal League Park or really anywhere in St. Louis, Ball also filed a lawsuit in municipal court that prevented Ed Brock from being able to execute his contract for the lease of the stadium. If not being able to open the season at Federal League Park wasn't bad enough, Ed Brock had already spent \$ 3,000.00 in renovations of the ball park. Brock's tenure in the leadership role of the St. Louis Giants started off disastrously and ended quickly. These financial setbacks reportedly put Brock in a financial position that forced him to give up his position with the Giants.

The St. Louis Giants planned an opening date of May 6th for their first game of the 1917 season. The Giants played a majority of their home games in Polo Park which was located in East St. Louis. Home games were also played at Brock's Park.

Mills returns to the St. Louis Giants

With the exodus of Ed Brock, the St. Louis Giants were taken over by the investor group known as the St. Louis Giants Co-operative Baseball Club. The new organization was headed up by Richard Barrett and John H. Haynes. Their first official act was to bring back Charles Mills as the general/business manager of the ball club.

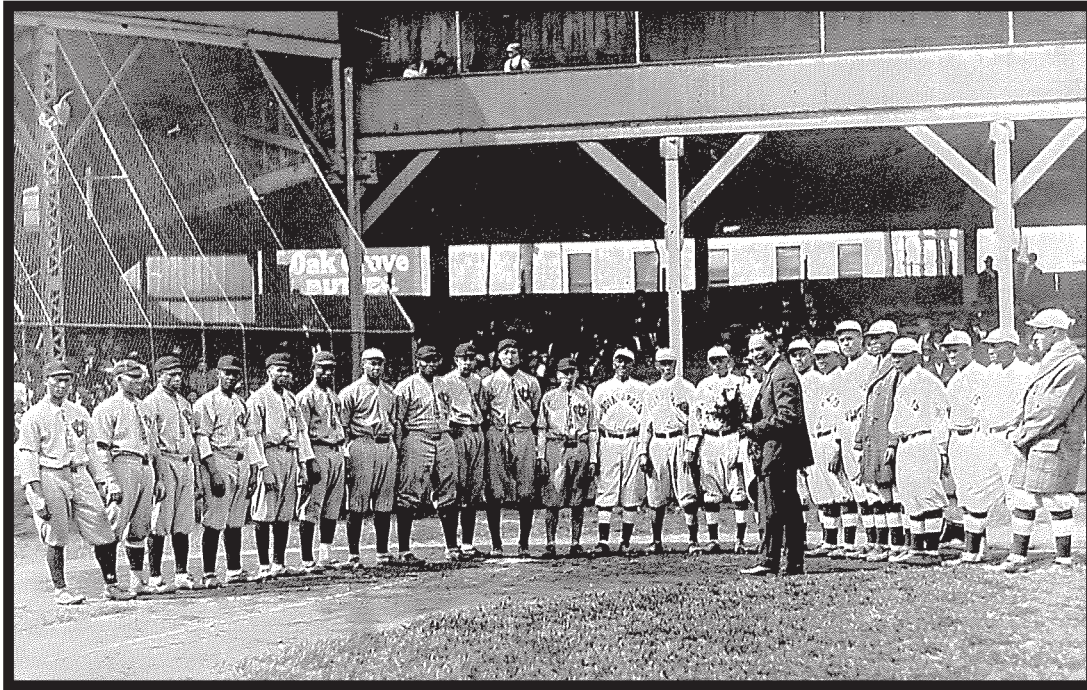
According to a newspaper article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on May 11th, Jimmie Lyons began the season with the St. Louis Giants as their team captain and started in the outfield. When Lyons left the club, William "Bill" Pettus became the team captain/field manager. Key players on the 1917 team were Sam Bennett (OF), Charles Blackwell (OF), Bunny Downs (2B), Lorenzo Cobb (C), Bill Gatewood (P), Joe Hewitt (SS), Dan Kennard (C), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Tullie McAdoo (1B) and Robert Prior (P).

Charles Blackwell started the 1917 season with the St. Louis Giants. It appears that Blackwell like Lyons left the team when all of the club's financial problems and uncertainty of team ownership became public knowledge.

There was very little press coverage for the 1917 St. Louis Giants so batting and pitching statistics can't be presented with this research.

With Mills back in control of the Giants, he moved the team to Polo Park in East St. Louis (IL) for the 1917 season. They also played several home games at Brock's Park which was located at 3600 South Broadway. The St. Louis Giants, however, spent the majority of the season as a traveling ball club and didn't play their first game in St. Louis until June 3rd. St. Louis has been rated by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team as the eighth best team in the West in 1917. From this researcher's perspective there have not been enough games found to accurately rate the 1917 St. Louis Giants.

Charles Blackwell also played for the Indianapolis ABC's and Jewell's ABC's during the 1917 season. The Indianapolis ABC's were managed by the legendary Charles Isham "C.I." Taylor. The starting line-up for Taylor included star players Ben Taylor (1B), Frank Warfield (2B), Oscar Charleston (OF), Dave Malarcher (OF), Candy Jim Taylor (3B) and George Shively (OF). Bill Gatewood, Jim Jeffries, Dicta Johnson, Dizzy Dismukes and Andrew "String Bean" Williams all pitched for the Indianapolis ABC's during the season. From current research it appears that Charles Blackwell spent the majority of the 1917 season with Indianapolis. Box scores have been



Chicago Union Giants vs Indianapolis ABCs
(1917)

Box scores have been found for forty-three (43) games that Charles played for Indianapolis. In these games, he hit .263 (45 hits for 171 at bats) with four doubles and eight triples for Indianapolis.

In June of 1917 C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABC's played a "championship series" against the Cuban Stars of Havana. Taylor billed his team as "Colored Championships of America" in the media. The eight (8) game series was played at Bosse Field and Washington Park in Indianapolis from June 21st through June 27th. Each team won four games and it does not appear that a tie breaking game was played.

Research by Paul Debono and presented in his book The Indianapolis ABCs credits Taylor's 1917 team with a record of 36-25-3 (.590).

Base Ball
Championship Series
Cuban Stars
of Havana, Cuba,
vs
C. I. Taylors
of Indianapolis
Colored Champions of America
Under Auspices of Cherry Street
Y. M. C. A.
June 21, 22, 23
BOSSE FIELD
Grand Stand 50c
Bleachers 25c

Charles Blackwell also played briefly for Jewell's ABCs at the beginning of the 1917 season. Jewell's ABC's was formed when Thomas Bowser decided to get out of baseball and sold his team to Warner Jewell. Jewell became the team's manager and Henry Fleming was their business manager. Jewell also assumed the lease at Northwestern Park for his team to play their home games at that ball park. Jewell's ABC's included the following front line players: Todd Allen (3B), Charles Blackwell (OF), Connie Day (3B), Jude Gans (1B), Fred Hutchinson (SS), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Joe Scotland (OF) and Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware (P). Three box scores have been found for Charles playing with Jewell's ABCs in 1917. Blackwell went 6 for 12 in these three games. He had five singles, double, four runs scored and four runs batted in.

World War I Impacts Professional Baseball

World War I had a devastating impact on professional baseball in the United States. Some of the top black ball players from the West that got drafted into military service to support the war effort included Oscar Charleston, Mortie "Specs" Clark, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, Jude Gans, Jim Jeffries, Dicta Johnson, Tom Johnson, Jimmie Lyons, Dave Malarcher, Spottswood Poles, Dick Redding, Louis Santop, Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware and Bobby Williams. According to a researcher connected with the Buffalo Soldiers Museum over 100 black baseball players were drafted into the military and served in World War I.

On August 22, 1918, Charles Henry Blackwell was inducted into the military. Blackwell was a private in the 15th Disposal Unit. He was discharged on January 20, 1919.

Did the St. Louis Giants Field a Team in 1918 ?

Most researchers agree that because of all the issues related to World War I and after an incredibly difficult year in 1917, Charles Mills did not field a team for the 1918 season.

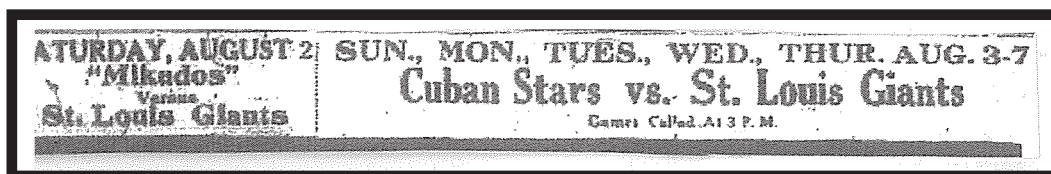
However, the Negro League research team of Larry Lester, Dick Clark and Wayne Stivers report having found nine (9) games in which Charles Blackwell played for the St. Louis Giants in late June and during the month of July of 1918. Blackwell went 10 for 35 in these nine games for a .286 batting average. Some of the others players who were on the St. Louis Giants roster in 1918 were Tullie Mc Adoo (1B), McKinley "Bunny" Downs (2B), Frank Warfield (SS), Felix Wallace (3B), Dan Kennard (C), Charles Blackwell (OF), Sam Bennett (OF), Jimmie Lyons (OF/P), Bill Gatewood (P) and Lee Wade (P).

Charles Mills Re-organizes the St. Louis Giants

After being out of baseball for most probably part of the 1918 season, Charles Mills reformed the St. Louis Giants for the 1919 baseball season. In order to field a team for the 1919 season, Mills brought in three new investors. They were Perry H. Harris, M.C. Whitlor and John Haynes. In addition to funding the team the investment group also secured grounds at 6000 North Broadway and Clarence near the Taylor Avenue trolley line to build a new grandstand, bleachers and club house.

Charles Mills assumed the role as general manager and business manager for the St. Louis Giants. Dick Wallace was signed as the field manager and the team played their home games at Giants Park which was located at 500 North Broadway in St. Louis. The season opened on May 3rd at the "new" ball park with a game against the Mexico Grays. Not only was it a complete sell out for the grandstand seating but according to newspaper reports fans were standing several rows deep on the sidelines. The Giants won the game 12-10 over the Grays. The season got off to a fine start for St. Louis by winning their first four games of the new season.

The 1919 St. Louis Giants were led by the hitting of Charlie Blackwell (OF), Sam Bennett (OF), Dan Kennard (C), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Tullie McAdoo (1B), Robert "Bow Legs" Scott (OF) and Dick Wallace (SS). Bill Drake, Bill Gatewood, John Finner and Fred Daniels comprised the starting rotation for St. Louis for the season.



Box scores have been found for twenty-five (25) games which Charles played for the St. Louis Giants in 1919. He went 35 for 93 for a .376 batting average. His eight doubles, four triples and four homeruns plus nineteen singles gave him a .677 slugging percentage.

In the September 26, 1919 issue of the St. Louis Argus the financials of the St. Louis Giants were published. According to Charles Mills, the team had \$ 5,863.33 in grounds and building improvement. They also had \$ 3,700.00 in payroll and park expenses. In addition they employed 23 people (players and staff). The St. Louis Giants were profitable and that made Charles Mills very proud.

According to research by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team the St. Louis Giants were the fourth best team in the West for the 1919 season.

Other top teams in the West in 1919 were the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars, Dayton Marcos, Detroit Stars and Indianapolis ABC's.

Founding of the St. Louis Giants Baseball and Amusement Company

On January 16, 1920 the St. Louis Argus reported that a "new" group of investors had gotten together and incorporated as the St. Louis Giants Baseball and Amusement Company. The shareholders of the "new" company were Louis J. Mills (100 shares), John H. Haynes (100 shares), Charles A. Mills (10 shares) and Lorenzo S. Cobb (10 shares). The ownership group elected Charles Mills as the President of the St. Louis Giants baseball team.

St. Louis Giants Baseball And Amusement Company

To The Investor, A Safe And Sane Investment

Elements Of Safety In The St. Louis Giants Baseball And Amusement Company (Common) Stock

The St. Louis Giants Baseball and Amusement Company is incorporated for \$10,000 under the laws of the State of Missouri, controls leasehold on grounds located at Broadway and Clarence Av., has improved the grounds and built stands to the amount of \$4,863.00 and expects to build additional stands this summer.

IS NOW OFFERING

180 Shares of Common Stock for sale at \$25 a share for cash. For the small investor you cannot beat it for cash, Paying 6 per cent at the least. For the small investor you cannot beat it.

By the month of August this year, this same stock, now selling for \$25.00 a share, cannot be purchased for three times the amount.

Rapid and solid growth in baseball is an assurance of a SAFE INVESTMENT.

WHILE THE ISSUE LASTS, this Stock will be for sale to the general public on application.

Address

LORENZA S. COBB, Executive Secretary
3208 Lawton Ave. Phone, Bell, Bomont 2273

St. Louis Giants
Stock Offering

St. Louis Argus
01-16-20

Founding of the Negro National League

Prior to the start of the 1920 baseball season Andrew “Rube” Foster, owner of the Chicago American Giants, held a meeting of the owners of the top black teams in the West. These meetings were held on February 13th and 14th of 1920 at the YMCA in Kansas City (Missouri) for the purpose of organizing the Negro National League (NNL). Some of the owners who attended the meeting were Andrew “Rube” Foster (Chicago American Giants), John “Tenny” Blount (Detroit Stars), Joe Green (Chicago Giants), C.I. Taylor (Indianapolis ABC’s) and J.L. Wilkinson (Kansas City Monarchs). Lorenzo Cobb represented Charles Mills, owner of the St. Louis Giants, because he was ill. W.S. Ferrance, secretary of the St. Louis Giants, also attended the meeting. At the end of the meeting a “league” constitution was ratified and Rube Foster was elected as the President and C.I. Taylor Vice-President of the Negro National League. Each of the eight clubs that joined the new league paid a \$ 500 franchise fee.



Andrew “Rube” Foster

The formation of the Negro National League did not happen over night. In December of 1907 a meeting had been held at the offices of the Freeman newspaper in Indianapolis to discuss the formation of the “National Colored Baseball League.” Among those attending this meeting were Frank Leland, Rube Foster and other owners of some of the top black teams in the West.

In addition Rube Foster had proposed a black league in 1912. Cities that Rube Foster envisioned in the league included Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Louisville and St. Louis.

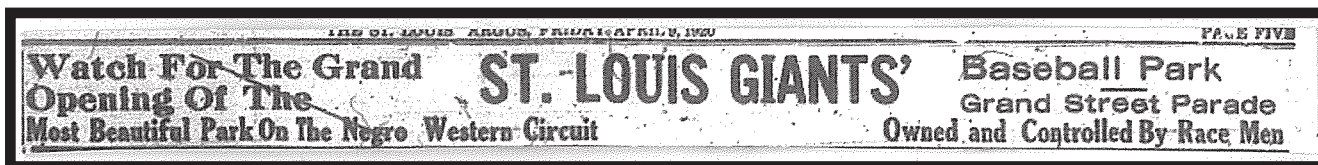
According to a letter by C.I. Taylor that was printed in the Indianapolis Freeman on May 5th of 1915, he and Andrew “Rube” Foster had been corresponding and planning for a national black league since the fall of 1914.

When the Negro National League (NNL) meetings were held, W.S. Ferrnce representing Charles Mills and the St. Louis Giants brought up the following concerns and grievances:

1. Reinforced Ed Bolden’s (owner of the Hilldale club) position that the Negro National League was primarily a booking agency headed up by Rube Foster.
2. Criticized what he called Rube Foster’s “czar-like” rule over the Negro National League.
3. Took exception and demanded an explanation as to why Jimmie Lyons had been taken from the St. Louis Giants roster and assigned to the Detroit Stars.
4. Supported teams being able to book their own games, especially outside the Negro National League regular season schedule.
5. Opposed having to pay 5 % of the gate to the Negro National League for each “league” game that was played. Rube Foster promised that a new booking policy would be developed but it never did materialize.
6. Voiced his displeasure on how disputes were handled especially when they involved the Chicago American Giants.

St. Louis Joins the Negro National League

Even with all the problems and concerns expressed by St. Louis Giants management, Charles Mills paid his \$ 500 franchise fee and the St. Louis Giants were a member of the Negro National League. St. Louis played their home games at Giants Park located at 6000 North Broadway at 60th Street in St. Louis. The team was managed by Dick Wallace who was also the team's starting third baseman.



St. Louis Argus

04-09-20

The St. Louis Giants team that Charles Mills fielded for the inaugural 1920 Negro National League season turned out to be a second division club with a losing record. Charles Blackwell led the team in hitting with a .321 batting average in "league" games. St. Louis other top hitters during the season were Lorenzo Cobb (.308), Charles "Doc" Dudley (.302), Eugene Moore (.298), Dan Kennard (.290), Sidney Brooks (.277), Lee Hill (.274) and Dick Wallace (.253) led the team in hitting. Charles Blackwell's complete hitting statistics for the 1920 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	St. Louis	64	237	46	76	8	7	6	48	17	.321	.481

Negro League researcher John Holway credits Charles Blackwell with a .357 batting average for the season when "league" and "non-league" games were added together. Holway's research lists Blackwell as having the fifth best average in the Negro League right behind Jimmie Lyons (.399), Bernardo Baro (.364), Cristobal Torriente (.361) and Ben Taylor (.359).



St. Louis Giants (1920)
Negro National League

Big Bill Drake (11-14) was the ace of the Giants' pitching staff. John Finner (8-6), Wayne Carr (6-9), Jimmy Oldham (2-1), Joe Casey (1-0), Louis Danage (1-0) and Luther Farrell (1-5) also pitched for the 1920 Giants. One of the Giants' pitching highlights of the 1920 season was when in early June Jimmy Oldham pitched a one-hitter in a 2-1 St. Louis victory. Oldham had a no-hitter with two outs going in the ninth inning before giving up the only hit of the game to his opponent.

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

Negro National League (1920)

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

(Note – The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were an Associate Member of the "league" in 1920.)



**Chicago American Giants
Negro National League Champions
1920**

(Back row left to right – Cristobal Torriente, Tom Johnson, Unknown, Unknown **Andrew "Rube" Foster**, **Bingo DeMoss**, Leroy Grant, Tom Williams and Jack Marshall. Kneeling left to right – Jim Brown, Otis "Lefty" Starks, George Dixon, **Dave Malarcher**, **Dave Brown**, Unknown and John Reese.)

Both research teams agree that the St. Louis Giants finished the 1920 season in 6th Place in the final Negro National League standings. They were seventeen (17) games behind the pennant winning Chicago American Giants. The results for twenty-two (22) games in which the St. Louis Giants played a “non-league” opponent have also been found. In these twenty-two (22) games the St. Louis Giants had an impressive won-loss record of 19-3 (.864).

The Negro National League proved to be the first successful baseball league featuring black baseball players.

After the regular season Charles Mills booked a four game series against the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League who had finished the season in fifth place for the regular season. The St. Louis Giants won the first game by a score of 5-4 with John Finner getting the win in a strong appearance in relief. Game one of the series was played at Giants Park with 6,000 fans in attendance. The St. Louis Cardinals won games two and three by shut out pitching from Jesse “Pop” Haines and Ferdie Schupp. Haines posted a 5-0 win and Schupp won his outing by a score of 6-0. Mills refused to let his St. Louis Giants play game four because according to Mills, the Giants had not been paid what they had been promised for the first three games.

The St. Louis Giants also played a post season double header against Casey Stengel’s Philadelphia Nationals on October 7th. The games were played in St. Louis at Giants Park. The St. Louis Giants defeated the Major Leaguers by a score of 7-1 in one game. The score for the other game is unknown at this time.

Charles Blackwell Travels to Cuba

In late 1920 Charles Blackwell traveled with the Bacharach Giants to Cuba to play in the American Series. The American Series pitted some of the top teams from the United States against the best teams from Cuba. In October of 1920 John McGraw brought his New York Giants team to Cuba to play the All Cubans and Almendares. After the conclusion of the New York Giants series, the Bacharach Giants arrived to take on teams representing Almendares and Habana. This series started on October 16th and ended on November 28th.

The Bacharach Giants were managed by Andrew “Rube” Foster. Their starting line-up included:

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Toussaint Allen	OF	Charles Blackwell
2B	Morten “Specs” Clark	OF	Oscar Charleston
SS	Dick Lundy	OF	Julio Rojo
3B	S.R. “Eddie” De Witt		
C	Louis Santop		

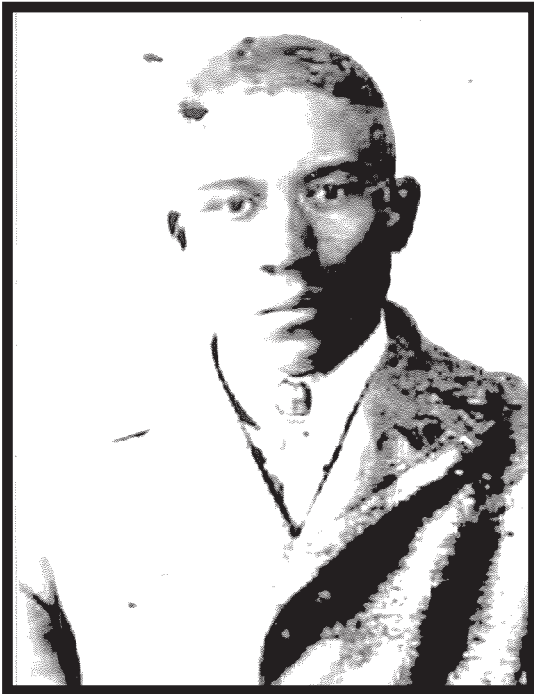


Foster’s pitching staff included Dick “Cannonball” Redding, Merven “Red” Ryan and Willis Flournoy.

The Bacharach Giants played six games and even with what should have been a strong line-up they performed very poorly. They went 0-4-2 while Almendares were 2-0-1 and Habana was 2-0-1. The primary reason for their poor showing was hitting. The Giants went 28 for 189 for a miserable .148 team batting average. Dick Lundy was the team’s leading hitter with a .227 batting average (5 for 22). Charlie Blackwell went 4 for 23 for a .174 batting average. Blackwell got a double, triple, three runs scored and a stolen base.

Charles Blackwell
Cuban Passport Photo

Bacharach Giants
Cuban Passport Photos (1920)



Toussaint "Tom" Allen



Oscar Charleston



Morten Clark



Phil Cockrell

Bacharach Giants
Cuban Passport Photos (1920)



Willis "Pud" Flournoy



Joseph Hewitt

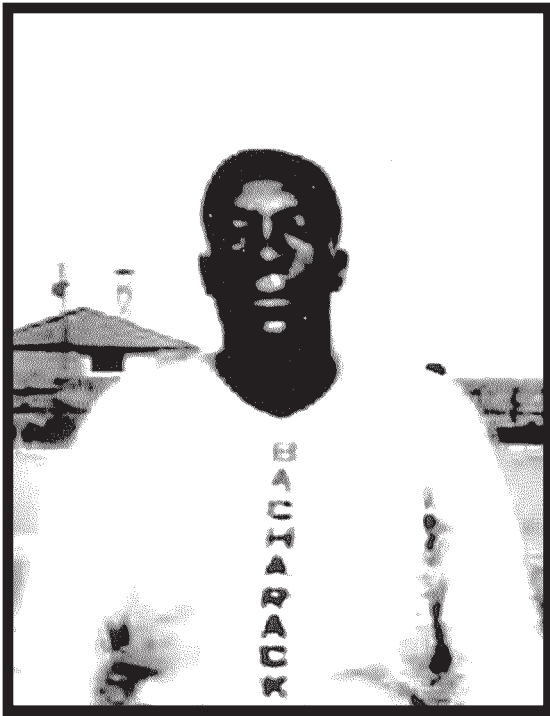


Dick Lundy



Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle

Bacharach Giants
Cuban Passport Photos (1920)



Dick "Cannonball" Redding



Merven "Red" Ryan



Louis Santop



James York

After the conclusion of the American Series, the Bacharach Giants decided to stay in Cuba and play in their winter league season. Almendares, Bacharach Giants and Habana comprised the 1920-21 Cuban Winter League. The Cuban Winter League started on December 2, 1920 and play concluded on February 2, 1921. After struggling through the American Series, the Bacharach Giants still failed to win consistently.

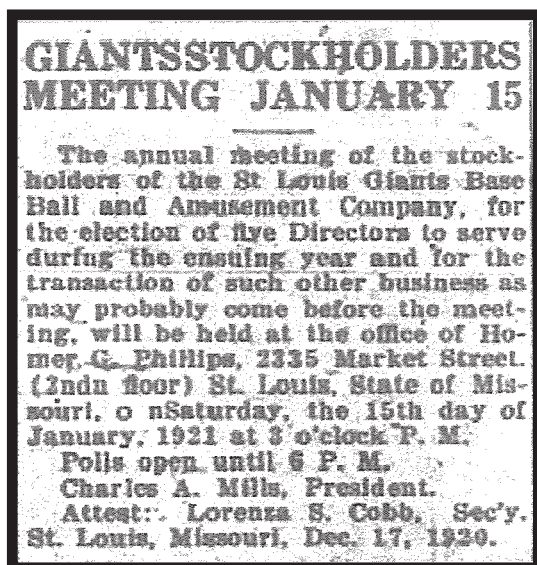
To improve his team's performance, Rube Foster made several changes to his starting line-up. Gone were Toussaint Allen (1B), Morten Clark (2B), S.R. De Witt (3B) and Julio Rojo (OF). These players were replaced by Agustin Parpetti (1B), Joe Hewitt (2B), Dell Clark (3B) and Jose Campos (OF). In addition to Dick Redding, Red Ryan and Pud Flournoy, Rube added Phil Cockrell and Jose Rodriquez to his pitching staff.

The leading hitters for the Bacharach Giants were Oscar Charleston (.410), Dell Clark (.406), Dick Lundy (.375), Louis Santop (.368) and Charles Blackwell (.294). Dick Redding (2-6), Mervin "Red" Ryan (2-1), Willis "Pud" Flournoy (0-3), Jose Rodriquez (0-1) and Phil Cockrell (0-0) all pitched for the Bacharach Giants during the Cuban Winter League season.

As the Bacharach Giants continued to lose, fan attendance dropped off dramatically and revenues went down. On January 12, 1921 the Bacharach Giants dropped out of the "league" and returned to the United States. The Bacharach Giants went 4-26 (.133) for their only season in Cuba. Habana won the Cuban Winter League title with a record of 23-10 (.667).

St. Louis Giants Fields Its Best Team Ever

On January 15, 1921 the St. Louis Baseball and Amusement Company had their annual meeting. Charles Mills was elected as President and Lorenzo Cobb was elected as Secretary. Joining the organization as a major stock holder was Dr. Samuel Shepard.



The St. Louis Giants left town on March 19th and traveled to New Orleans to conduct spring training. During spring training the Giants played the Caulfield Ads from New Orleans. After the conclusion of spring training the St. Louis Giants played their way back to St. Louis making stops in Lake Charles (LA), Dallas, Fort Worth, Hot Springs (AR) and several other cities.

Prior to the start of the 1921 season Charles Mills pulled off a real coup when he signed Oscar Charleston who had been playing for the Indianapolis ABCs. The 1921 St. Louis Giants were the best team that Charles Mills ever fielded. His starting line-up for the 1921 Negro National League season was as follows:

St. Louis Argus
01-07-21

St. Louis Giants (1921)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Tullie McAdoo	.215	OF	Charles Blackwell	.402
2B	Eddie Holtz	.176	OF	Oscar Charleston	.433
SS	Joe Hewitt	.253	OF	Doc Dudley	.306
3B	Sam Mongin	.222			
C	Dan Kennard	.325	P	Big Bill Drake	22-11

St. Louis Giants Will Play Their First Game At Home SUNDAY, APRIL 24



JOE HEWITT

Local National League Stars, Now On A Triumphant Tour of The South, Will Make Their First Appearance Here Against The **HURON DAKOTA LEAGUE CLUB**, Best In The Northwest.

The Giants Will Open The Negro League Season At Kansas City, Sat. April 30

See Them First at Giants' Park, 6000 N. Broadway
SUNDAY, APRIL 24



RICHARD WALLACK, Mgr.

Reserve Box Seat Tickets Now

For The Big Game
SUNDAY, APRIL 24
PHONE, BOMONT 1043
Reservations Already Coming In.



SAM BENNETT



CHARLES BLACKWELL



DIN BERNARD



OSCAR CHARLSTON



TULLY MCINNIS



WILLIAM DRAKE



EDDIE HOLT



SAMMIE JOHNSON

THE ABOVE PHOTOS ARE OF MEN WHO ARE SURE TO MAKE THE 1921 ST. LOUIS GIANTS. Also—Del Clarke, 2nd Baseman; Dr. Dudley, the sensational outfielder; John Finner, pitcher; and Sam Mangin, Infielder.

St. Louis Giants (1921)
(Charles Blackwell – bottom row first on left)

St. Louis Argus
04-08-21

SOME REAL BASE BALL

DOC. ANDREWS' HURON S. DAKOTA LEAGUE CLUB
Will Stop Off, On Its Way Home, For 3 Games With

The St. Louis Giants

At Giants' Park, 6000 N. Broadway
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25-26

Reserve Your Box Seat Tickets. On Sale Wednesday, April 20. Phone Giants' Headquarters, Bomont 1043; or Shaw Pharmacy, Flinney and Pendleton; Phone, Lindell 4919---Delmar 171

Opening of National Colored League, Sunday, May 8--Giants vs. Chicago.

St. Louis Argus
04-15-21

Sam Bennett (.285) and Sidney Brooks (.309) were the team's top two utility players in 1921.

During the 1921 Negro National League season Oscar Charleston and Charles Blackwell were considered the top two players in the Negro National League. Oscar Charleston and Charles Blackwell's hitting statistics for the 1921 season in "league" games were as follows:

Player	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Oscar Charleston	77	284	104	123	17	12	15	91	32	.433	.736
Charles Blackwell	84	316	95	127	22	11	13	90	26	.402	.665

According to research by Negro League historian John Holway when both "league" and "non-league" games are added together Charles Blackwell was the best hitter in the Negro National League with a .484 batting average and Oscar Charleston was second in the "league" with a .437 batting average. In addition according to Holway Charles Blackwell was fourth in homeruns with 12. Oscar Charleston led the "league" with 17 homeruns. George "Tank" Carr was second with 15 and Raleigh "Biz" Mackey was third with 13 homeruns. In addition Holway credits Blackwell with finishing second in doubles with 20 (Ben Taylor had 22) and was third in stolen bases with 31 steals (Oscar Charleston had 37 and Joe Hewitt had 35).

The research of Larry Lester, Dick Clark and Wayne Stivers credits Charles Blackwell with a batting average of .458 and a slugging percentage of .745 for the 1921 Negro National League season. The research team have found box scores for 57 games, 212 official at bats and 97 hits. In addition their research show he had 20 doubles, 7 triples, 9 homeruns, 19 stolen bases and 68 runs batted in.

The St. Louis Giants were the best hitting team in the Negro National League for the 1921 season with a team batting average of .280 and a team slugging percentage of .397.

Felix "Dick" Wallace was the player manager of the 1921 team and they played their home games at Giants Park.



Oscar Charleston
St. Louis Giants
1921

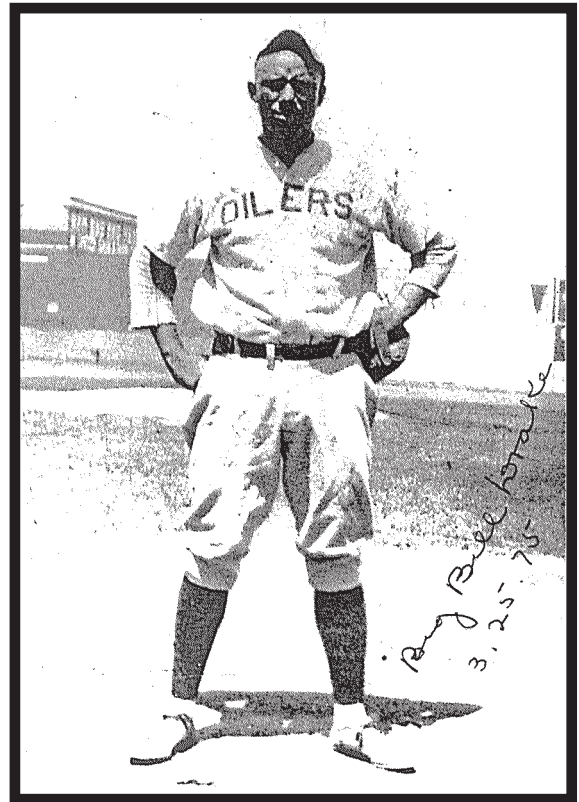
The pitching staff for the 1921 Giants was anchored by Bill Drake (22-11), Jimmy Oldham (12-5) and John Finner (11-7). Also pitching for St. Louis in 1921 were Deacon Meyers (4-2), James "Buddy" Field (3-4), Otis "Lefty" Starks (2-3), Herbert Smith (2-2), Perry Hall (1-0), Wayne Carr (1-4), Sidney Brooks (0-3), Salvador Poree (0-0) and Oscar Charleston (0-0). According to research by John Holway, Big Bill Drake led the Negro National League in wins (22) and in strikeouts (132). The won-loss records for the Giants' pitching staff presented here are for games against both "league" and "non-league" opponents. St. Louis' pitchers did not fare nearly as well as their hitters. The Giants' pitching staff compiled a 4.28 team ERA (eighth best in the "league") and opposing hitters posted a .275 batting average for the season (seventh best in the "league").

The St. Louis Giants opened their regular 1921 season on April 24th with a three game series against Doc Andrews' Huron South Dakota League Club. Behind the pitching of Wayne Carr and Jimmie Oldham the Giants beat Huron by a score of 7-1 in game one. The results for games two and three have not been located.

St. Louis opened their Negro National League season on a positive note on April 30th against the Kansas City Monarchs. The game was played in Kansas City with approximately 3,000 fans in attendance. Charles Blackwell hit a two run home run in the top of the ninth inning to give the Giants a 6-4 win. John Finner got the win for St. Louis and Rube Currie was charged with the loss for Kansas City.

Their first game of the Negro National League season played at home on May 8th against the Chicago Giants. Behind the shutout pitching of Big Bill Drake, the St. Louis Giants easily defeated the Chicago Giants by a score of 9-0.

The St. Louis Giants had an excellent season in 1921 in “league” play. The Giants started the season strong and played excellent baseball the entire year. They finished in second place in the final Negro National League standings behind the Chicago American Giants who repeated as champions of the “league.” According to an article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on October 28th the St. Louis Giants led the Negro National League in road wins and were third in games won at home.



Big Bill Drake

The final standings for the 1921 Negro National League season are different depending on your research source.

Negro National League (1921)

Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark				Final Standings Published in <u>St. Louis Argus</u> on 10-28-21			
1921	Games	Record	Pct.	1921	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	64	42-22	.656	Chicago American Giants	65	43-22	.662
Kansas City Monarchs	81	50-31	.617	St. Louis Giants	72	42-30	.583
St. Louis Giants	68	40-28	.588	Kansas City Monarchs	91	53-38	.582
Detroit Stars	64	32-32	.500	Detroit Stars	66	33-33	.500
Indianapolis ABCs	73	35-38	.479	Indianapolis ABCs	78	38-40	.487
Cincinnati Cubans	68	29-39	.426	Columbus Buckeyes	72	32-40	.444
Columbus Buckeyes	63	25-38	.397	Cincinnati Cuban Stars	71	29-42	.408
Chicago Giants	42	10-32	.238	Chicago Giants	45	10-35	.222
Bacharach Giants (Associate Member)	45	26-19	.578	Bacharach Giants	No won-loss records reported.		

According to the research of Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team the St. Louis Giants were 46-33-1 (.582) in play against all levels of competition and 42-32-1 (.568) in “league” play. Negro League researcher John Holway credits the 1921 St. Louis Giants with a record of 54-30 (.643) in games against all levels of competition.

Two of the things that make it so difficult to evaluate the performance of Negro League teams is that the “league” did not play or enforce a regular “league” schedule and that some teams did not report all of their games played to the “league” office. A review of the two different resources for the 1921 Negro National League season reveals two major issues. First, only two teams (Columbus and St. Louis) played the same number of games for the season according to the won-

loss records as reported by the St. Louis Argus and Baltimore Afro-American. In the research reported by Larry Lester and Dick Clark only two teams (Cincinnati and St. Louis) played for the same number of games for the 1921 season. Secondly, there was a wide discrepancy in the total number of "league" games played by individual teams. For example a review of the "final" Negro National League standings for the 1921 season as published in the St. Louis Argus and Baltimore Afro-American reveals that the Kansas City Monarchs played more than twice as many "league" games as the Chicago Giants.

BASEBALL		AMERICAN LEAGUE PARK, Grand and Dodier	
Double Header, This Sunday, October 9			
SEATS FOR EVERYONE		St. L. Cardinals vs St. L. Giants	
BLEACHERS 50c	NATION LEAGUE BATTING CHAMPIONS (First Game 1 O'clock) NAT'L NEGRO LEAGUE BATTING CHAMPIONS		One Half of Grand Stand <small>JUST BEHIND GIANTS' BENCH</small> Reserved For Colored Patrons
PAVILION 75c	Also Returns From World's Series Game Reported as Played		
GRAND STAND . \$1.00 <small>General Admission</small>	Single GAMES--MONDAY and TUES., OCT. 10th and 11th, 3 p. m.		Best Seats In The Park
BACK BOXES . . . \$1.35 <small>Including Grand Stand</small>	<small>Don't Miss The Double Header and World Series Returns Sunday 1 P. M.</small>		
FRONT BOXES . . \$1.50 <small>Including Grand Stand</small>	Box Seats on Sale at Giant's Headquarters, Bom. 1043, Leonard and Laclede		
<small>WAR TAX INCLUDED</small>			

St. Louis Argus
10-07-21

After the Negro National League season, Charles Mills arranged for his team to play the St. Louis Cardinals in a five game exhibition series. The series almost never took place because the Cardinals required a large monetary guarantee. The Cardinals had a very good team led by the hitting of Rogers Hornsby and had finished in third place in the final National League standings. The series started on October 3rd and the series concluded play on October 11th. The series was played at American League Park. The St. Louis Cardinals won four of the five games played. In game one Charles Blackwell connected for a homerun in a 5-4 loss to the Cardinals. The St. Louis Giants lone win was a 6-2 victory that came in game two behind a homerun by Oscar Charleston, two doubles by Charles Blackwell and the outstanding pitching of Jimmy Oldham. The Giants got excellent hitting against the Major Leaguers but their pitchers struggled on the mound. St. Louis Giants pitchers gave up 47 hits in 146 at bats for the Cardinals for a .322 team batting average. Joe Hewitt and Charles Blackwell led the way for the Giants in hitting. Hewitt went 6 for 16 for a .375 batting average and Blackwell went 8 for 22 for a .364 average.



St. Louis Cardinals
National League

Blackwell Signs with Indianapolis for Post Season Play

During the post season of 1921 C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABC's played a series against the Jack Hendricks' All Stars. Hendricks' team was composed of primarily Minor League players most of whom had played for the Indianapolis Indians during the regular season. In an attempt to bolster his roster Taylor signed Charles Blackwell, Oscar Charleston, Big Bill Drake and George Shively. The games were played at Washington Park in Indianapolis. It appears that three games were to have been played. According to a newspaper report that appeared in the Freeman on October 15th, Jack Hendrick's All Stars won the first game by a score of 4-2. In the second game, Taylor's ABC's won the contest by a score of 8-3. The outcome of game three is still unknown.

The St. Louis Giants also played a significant number of "non-league" opponents during the 1921 season. According to newspaper reports, St. Louis won the vast majority of their games against these lower level opponents.

Charles Mills Sells the St. Louis Giants

Before the start of the 1922 Negro National League baseball season, Andrew "Rube" Foster who was President of the Negro National League was determined to replace Charles Mills as the owner of the St. Louis franchise with new ownership. Negro National League meetings were held from January 26-28, 1922 at the Appomattox Club in Chicago for Foster to begin this process. The rift between Charles Mills and Rube Foster stemmed from several incidents.

- Charles Mills and C.I. Taylor were adamantly against paying Rube Foster a 5 % booking fee for all "league" games. Reportedly, Rube Foster received \$ 11,200.00 in fees for booking games for the 1920 Negro National League season and the "league" did not get a dime of the money. Foster was in reality a one man booking agency. From this researcher's perspective this started the rift between Mills and Foster that would ultimately cost Mills his Negro National League franchise and team.
- According to Rube Foster, Charles Mills had "exercised poor judgment in operating the team." Reportedly most of these issues were related to financial matters.
- The St. Louis Giants reportedly accumulated debt to the players for salaries that were not paid when they were due.
- Foster claimed that Charles Mills and St. Louis Giants management had diminished the team's revenue potential. Foster did not elaborate on this accusation.
- Frank Young, sports writer for the Chicago Defender, surmised that part of Foster's problem with Mills was his team's failure and unwillingness to complete a post season exhibition series with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1920.
- In addition, according to Rube Foster, the St. Louis Giants wanted to stay in the "league" but could not pay the \$ 1,000.00 deposit prior to the start of the 1922 season.

Ironically, after the best season of his career, Charles Mills was faced with the distinct possibility of losing his team.

Without any question, Charles Mills and the St. Louis Giants had been faced with a number of challenges and problems over the years.

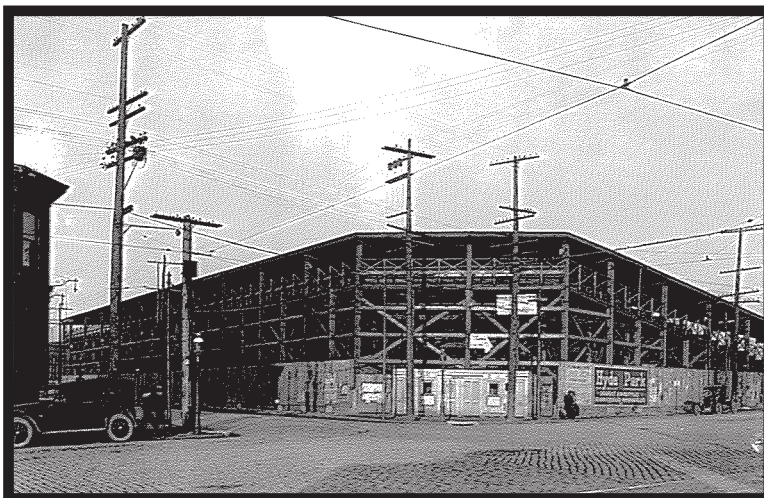
Even though there were significant differences between Foster and Mills, Rube Foster could have taken into consideration the following factors that had impacted Charles Mills' ability to manage his ball club:

1. The St. Louis Giants were plagued by numerous changes in management, investors and ownership over the years but they always fielded a quality team and eventually paid their bills.
2. In defense of Charles Mills he wasn't independently wealthy but always maintained a role in the team's management as with the manager or co-owner.
3. In addition the St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association (SLGAA) had always been run professionally but when they disbanded after their first barnstorming tour of the East, Charles Mills was left by himself to operate the team.
4. Philip Ball dealt the St. Louis Giants and Ed Brock a deadly blow when he destroyed Brock's opportunity to lease Federal League Park.
5. The St. Louis Giants had lost several players to World War I.

Charles Mills had overcome all of these problems and more to keep the St. Louis Giants operating. Rube Foster was not willing to take into consideration any of these extenuating circumstances. Foster wanted Mills out and that was that.

When it became evident that Charles Mills was on his way out as the owner of the St. Louis franchise for the Negro National League, a group of St. Louis businessmen formed the St. Louis Giants Baseball Club and Amusement Association. This group should not be confused with the St. Louis Giants and Amusement Association which was formed in 1911. The goal of the "new" group was to preserve St. Louis' franchise in the Negro National League. The group was headed up by Dr. Samuel Shepard, Richard Kent and Dr. J.W. McClelland.

On March 31, 1922 the Baltimore Afro-American, St. Louis Argus and other national newspapers reported that Dr. Samuel Shepard and Richard "Dick" Kent had purchased the St. Louis franchise. The first thing that Shepard, Kent and the "new" investors group did when they bought the team was to schedule a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Negro National League (Rube Foster, C.I. Taylor and J.L. Wilkinson). After several intense meetings, the St. Louis investor group was given 15 days to provide evidence as to why the St. Louis Giants should be allowed to continue to participate in the "league."



Hyde Park

(also called **Stars Park**)

Home of St. Louis Stars
(1922-1931)

St. Louis Stars Continue Tradition of Negro League Baseball in St. Louis.

In mid-April of 1922 the Chicago Defender reported that with a new ownership group in place, St. Louis would be allowed to continue to have a franchise in the Negro National League. The team's name however would be changed from the "St. Louis Giants" to the "St. Louis Stars." With the sale of the St. Louis Giants the team's legacy was no more. Dr. Sam Shepard ran the St. Louis Stars as the team's business manager and Bill Gatewood was selected to be the team's player-manager. The St. Louis Stars then signed the entire roster from Charles Mills' St. Louis Giants team with the exception of Oscar Charleston. In addition the new ownership group built a new ball park for their team that they called "Stars Park." The new stadium was located at 130 South Compton Avenue which is where Compton Avenue and North Market Street meet. This was in the heart of the St. Louis African American community. The new stadium had a seating capacity of more than 10,000 fans. Over the years the stadium was called both Stars Park and Hyde Park. The St. Louis Stars also played several games at Tiger Field in St. Louis.

Charles Blackwell was the team's best hitter with a .382 batting average and .607 slugging percentage. His complete statistics for the season in "league" games were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1922	St. Louis	73	275	54	105	21	10	7	55	17	.382	.607

Negro League researcher, John Holway, credits Charles with 22 double which was 3rd best in the "league," 10 triples which was also 3rd best and 17 stolen bases which was 2nd best in the Negro National League for the 1922 season.

Other top hitters for the Stars during the 1922 season were Sam Bennett (.385 – in a part time role), Dan Kennard (.329), Branch Russell (.302) and Joe Hewitt (.283). As a team the Stars posted a .276 team batting average which was 5th best in the "league" and a .412 slugging percentage which was third best of all the Negro National League teams.



St. Louis Giants (1922)

(Back row left to right – Joseph Hewitt, Bob Fagan, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, **James "Cool Pappa" Bell**, Unknown, and Eggie Hensley. Middle row left to right – Unknown, Branch Russell, Unknown, Unknown, John Reese, Unknown and Otto Ray. Front row left to right – Unknown and **George Scales**)

Deacon Meyers (14-1), Fred Bell (11-10), Johnny Oldham (10-5) and John Finner (4-5) comprised the team's starting rotation. Big Bill Drake (3-3), Jim Gurley (3-4), Steel Arm Dickey (2-2), Percy Miller (1-3), Logan "Slap" Hensley (0-1) and Bill Gatewood (0-2) also pitched for the St. Louis Stars during the season. The won-loss records of these pitchers include both "league" and "non-league" games. The St. Louis pitching staff was ranked sixth best in the "league" with a 5.80 team ERA and allowed opposing hitters a .308 batting average.

The St. Louis Stars finished their inaugural Negro National League season with a record of 26-36 (.419). They were in fifth place in the final "league" standings and thirteen (13) games behind the Chicago American Giants (37-24-1) who won the championship title.

BASEBALL		Sunday, Oct. 1	One Game Only	Annual Diamond Classic
STARS' NEW PARK	COMPTON and MARKET	St. Louis Stars Vs. SOUTHERN		RAVANAUUGH'S LEAGUE ALL STARS
BASEBALL	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 3, 4	St. Louis Stars Vs. DETROIT TIGERS		
STARS' PARK—COMPTON and MARKET	General Admission \$1.00	Box Seats \$1.50	REGULAR (White) AMERICAN-LEAGUE CLUB	
		Detroit Tigers	St. Louis Stars	
		BLEN, 3B JENSEN, 3B JENSEN, CF YARBRO, 1B LOBBENGREN, RF GIBSON, 2B HUNTER, SS HAYES, C COLE, P DUNN, P FLEMING, P GIBSON, P	HEWITT, 3B MADDOX, 1B CHARLSTON, CF BLACKWELL, LF KENNARD or RAY, C DUBBY, RF HUSKEL, 2B HOLY, 3B —Pitchers— MIERS, 3B O'NEIL, 3B BROWN, Detroit HURD, LIND	

St. Louis Argus
09-29-22

In October of 1922 the St. Louis Stars played a four game exhibition series against the Detroit Tigers of the American League. On October 2nd the St. Louis Stars swept a double header from the Detroit Tigers by the scores of 5-0 and 5-4. The next day St. Louis beat Detroit by a score of 11-7. Detroit took the final game which was played on October 4th by a score of 10-3. The Major Leaguers blamed their defeat on the fact that their star player Ty Cobb was absent from their line-up. Reportedly, Cobb had been humiliated in 1909 by a black team when he was playing in Cuba and vowed never to play against black players again. All four games were played in St. Louis.

BASEBALL	9 GAMES	Starting This Saturday, Oct. 7	Ending Sunday, Oct. 15
STARS' NEW PARK	COMPTON and MARKET	St. Louis Stars Vs. Wabadas	
General Admission \$1.00—Box Seats \$1.50	See These Contests For Supremacy Between The St. Louis Stars Of The National Negro League And A Club Of Picked Stars From The National And American Leagues Including: O'Neil, Archdeacon, Tobin, McManis, Mueller, Hawk, Schmandt, A Staff of Mound Artists And Others. Games Called 3 P. M. Gates Open Sun., 12 O'clock.		

St. Louis Argus
10-06-22

In addition to playing the Detroit Tigers during the 1922 post season, the St. Louis Stars also played an additional two series against teams comprised of players with Major League experience. They were the Wabadas and O'Neil's All Stars. The Stars defeated the Wabadas in their first two games. It is still unclear how many games were played between St. Louis and the Wabadas. O'Neil's All Stars were promoted as having the strongest line-up that St. Louis had ever faced. Bob Meusel (New York Giants outfielder), Mickey O'Neil (Boston Braves catcher) and Andy High (Brooklyn shortstop) were three of the featured players from the Major League All Star team. The three game series was played at the Stars new ball park in St. Louis. The St. Louis Stars won the first game by a score of 5-4. Deacon Meyers pitched the second game for the St. Louis Stars and registered an 8-0 shutout. Charles Blackwell was the hitting star for St. Louis.

Blackwell went 2 for 3 with a homerun and two runs scored. The score for the third game has currently not been located.

The St. Louis Stars also defeated the Kavanuagh's Southern League All Stars in the post season.

Blackwell Returns to Cuba

After the conclusion of the regular 1922 Negro National League season and the post season play of the St. Louis Stars, Charles Blackwell returned to Cuba to play for the Habana Leones of the Cuban Winter League. The "league" was comprised of four teams (Almendares, Habana, Marianao and Santa Clara). The Cuban Winter League schedule started on November 25, 1922 and the season ended February 4, 1923.

The Habana Leones were managed by Mike Gonzalez. They were led by the hitting of Cristobal Torriente (.351), John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.344), Charles Blackwell (.321) and Bienvendio Jimenez (.300). The pitching staff included Adolfo Luque (11-9), Dick Redding (3-1), Jose Hernandez (2-1), S. Packery (2-1) and Jose Acosta (1-8).

At the beginning of the winter season, the Habana Leones were favored to win the championship. They contended for the title all season but Marianao kept on winning behind the brilliant pitching of Lucas Boda (10-4). Habana finished the season with a record of 32-22 (.593) and were just three games behind the Marianao Tigres (35-19) when the season ended.

Charles Blackwell Returns to St. Louis

When the 1923 Negro National League season got underway, Charles Blackwell was back in the starting line-up for the St. Louis Stars. Joe Hewitt started the season as the team's manager but when they got off to a 17-23 (.425) start, he was replaced by Candy Jim Taylor. During the season, the team continued to play its home games at Stars Park in St. Louis (MO).

Offensively, St. Louis had an excellent team. Their .298 team batting average was second best in the entire Negro National League for the 1923 season and their .458 team slugging percentage was the best in the "league." The Stars hitting attack was led by George "Tubby" Scales (.390), Candy Jim Taylor (.343), Joe Hewitt (.340), Mitchell Murray (.339), Charles "Doc" Dudley (.330), Percy Miller (.315), Eddie Holtz (.310), Charles Blackwell (.307) and Branch Russell (.283).

Blackwell's complete hitting statistics for the 1923 Negro National League season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1923	St. Louis	68	238	46	73	16	5	5	46	9	.307	.479

Unfortunately for Stars' management the pitching staff did not come anywhere close to delivering. The team's pitching staff posted a 5.59 team ERA and allowed opposing hitters a .315 batting average. Both of these were next to last in the "league." St. Louis' starting pitching rotation was like a revolving door during the season. Nine (9) different pitchers took the mound in at least ten (10) games for the Stars during the season. These nine (9) pitchers were James Bell (11-7 in 25 games), Archie Stewart (5-6 in 26 games), Fred Bell (4-4 in 13 games), Earl Gurley (3-8 in 20 games), Deacon Meyers (2-4 in 12 games), John Finner (2-4 in 10 games), Jimmy Oldham (2-5 in 14 games), Herman Gordon (0-3 in 10 games) and Percy Miller (0-3 in 12 games). In addition at least seven (7) other pitchers (Sidney Brooks, Logan Hensley, (no first name) McCabb, Archie Stewart, Candy Jim Taylor, James "Tuck" Turner and John Young) appeared in a Stars uniform as a pitcher during the season.

The St. Louis Stars ended the 1923 season with a 29-43 (.403) won-loss record and were in sixth place in the final Negro National League standings. They were eighteen (18) games behind the Kansas City Monarchs (54-32) who won the "league" title.

Stars Make a Turnaround

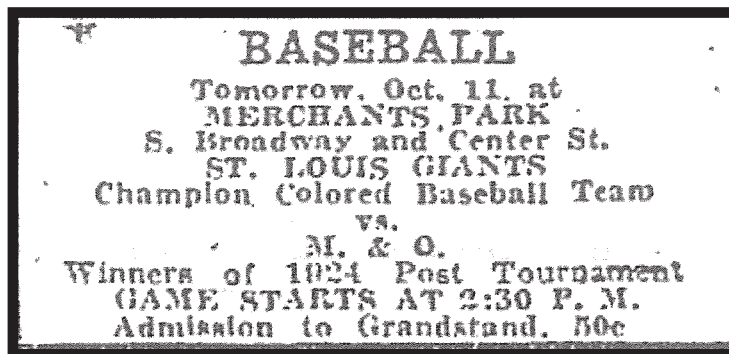
After an extremely poor showing in 1923, manager Candy Jim Taylor was determined to turn the team around. The key for Taylor was to improve his pitching staff. William Ross and Roosevelt Davis were signed to anchor the starting rotation. He also added several new position players that included Willie Bobo (1B), Dewey Creacy (3B), and Willie Wells (SS). Finally, Candy Jim transitioned James "Cool Pappa" Bell from a starting pitcher into a fulltime outfielder.

Candy Jim Taylor (.333), Mitchell Murray (.327), Willie Bobo (.314), Willie Wells (.304), Branch Russell (.304) and James "Cool Pappa" Bell (.289) led the St. Louis Stars in hitting. The St. Louis Stars compiled a .274 team batting average which was fourth best in the "league." Starting in early June, Charles Blackwell became mired in a hitting slump that lasted the rest of the season. He went 50 for 197 for a meager .258 batting average with a .407 slugging percentage in 57 games.

Newcomers, William Ross (8-10 w/ 3.81 ERA) and Roosevelt Davis (7-4 w/ 4.29) did not disappoint team management. Fred Bell (7-7), Logan "Slap" Hensley (4-1), Deacon Meyers (4-3), James "Cool Pappa" Bell (3-1), Sam Crawford (2-3), Charlie "Lefty" Robinson (1-2), George Mitchell (1-1), Percy Miller (1-1), John Finner (0-3) and John Young (0-2) also pitched for St. Louis during the season. The St. Louis Stars pitching staff lowered their team ERA from 5.59 to 4.66 in 1924. The Stars are credited with the fifth best pitching staff in the Negro National League for the 1924 season.

The Stars improved their won-loss record from the previous season by winning 15 more games than they had in 1923. They ended the season in fourth place in the Negro National League with a winning record of 44-40 (.524). The Kansas City Monarchs (57-22) repeated as Negro National League champions.

Charles Blackwell also played for Charles Mill's St. Louis Giants during the season. Mills fielded a lower level team that played an independent schedule during the 1924 baseball season.



St. Louis Giants

Denver Post
Denver, CO
10-10-24

Charles Blackwell Moves to Birmingham

After spring training, Charles Blackwell started the season with the St. Louis Stars. Only one box score has been found for Charles playing with St. Louis in 1925. In a pinch hitting role he got a hit in his only plate appearance.

Shortly after the start of the season Charles Blackwell was dealt to the Birmingham Black Barons who also played in the Negro National League. Immediately after joining the Black Barons, Blackwell became the team's starting left fielder.

The team was owned by Joe Rush. Birmingham was managed by William Patterson (3-13) and then Sam Crawford (24-46-2) during the season. The Black Barons were definitely a team in transition. Gone were George McAllister and Charles "Two Sides" Wesley who were sold to Chicago. In addition Leroy Stratton was traded to Chicago during the season. In an attempt to improve his roster Joe Rush signed Charles Blackwell (OF), Saul Davis (3B), Herman Roth (C) and Charles Beverly (P). To make matters even worse Buford "Geechie" Meredith and Harry Salmon were suspended during the season. Management also tried making several position changes (Meredith was moved from short to second, Stratton took over at short and Curtis Green tried to replace McAllister at first base). Long story short nothing worked. Charles Blackwell's performance was one of the few positives for Birmingham during the season. The only element of consistency was that the team still called historic Rickwood Field in Birmingham as their home park.

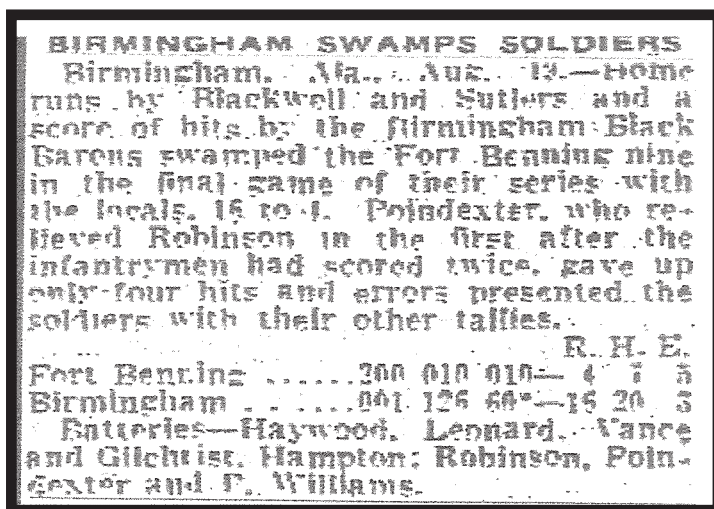
With a new team and new ball park, Charles Blackwell found his hitting touch. In 75 games for the Black Barons, Charlie hit .307 with a .524 slugging percentage. He also connected for 15 home runs. His 15 homeruns were third best in the "league" right behind Edgar Wesley (18) and Norman "Turkey" Stearnes (18). Charlie's complete hitting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1925	Birmingham	75	296	62	91	11	4	15	44	10	.307	.524

Other top hitters for the 1925 season were Sandy Thompson (.338), Poindexter Williams (.335), George "Mule" Suttles (.331), Saul Davis (.328) and Reuben Jones (.285). The Birmingham Black Barons posted a .268 team batting average which was fourth best in the "league."

Unfortunately for Black Baron fans, the Birmingham pitching staff played poorly all season. They compiled a 6.60 team ERA which was ranked seventh in the Negro National League. The starting rotation for the Black Barons included Robert Poindexter (7-10 w/ 5.28 ERA), Charlie Beverly (5-12 w/ 7.88 ERA), Harry Salmon (6-5 w/ 5.91 ERA) and Sam Crawford (4-7 w/ 6.09 ERA). Fred Daniels, John Finner, Willie Foster, Squire Moore, Charles "Lefty" Robinson, Frank Stevens and Sam Streeter also pitched for the Black Barons

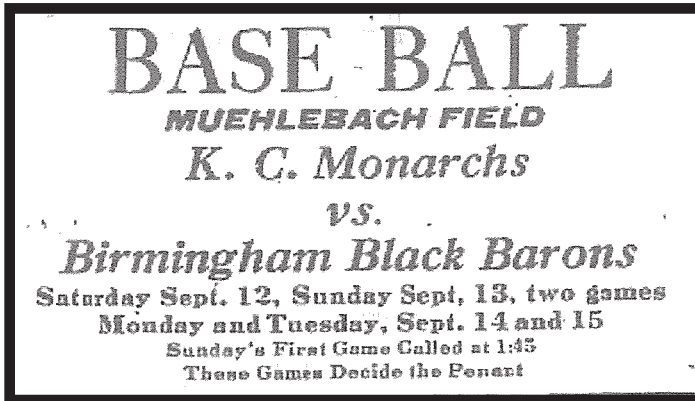
The entire 1925 season was a struggle for the Birmingham Black Barons. They started the season slow and by early June were 4-18 and in last place in the Negro National League. Then after winning four of six, the team went on a twenty game road trip. Not only did they lose every series but they only managed to win three games. At that point the season was "officially" lost.



Blackwell Hits Homerun

Chicago Defender
 Chicago, IL
 08-29-25

Birmingham finished the season with a miserable won-loss record of 27-59-2 (.314) in Negro National League games. Birmingham was an astounding thirty-four (34) games behind the “league” leading Kansas City Monarchs (59-23-2). Ironically Blackwell’s old team the St. Louis Stars finished the season in second place with a record of (59-30-2) and lost a seven game “championship series” (three games to four) to Kansas City.

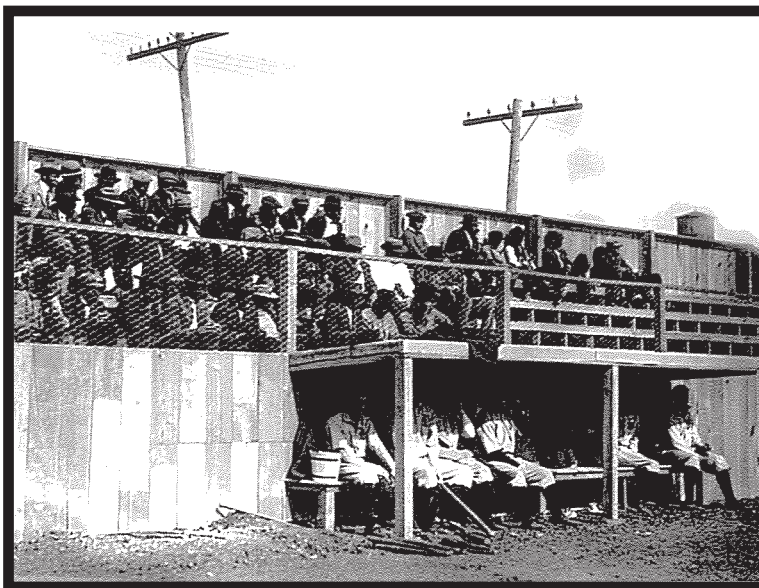


Birmingham vs Kansas City

Advocate
 Kansas City, KS
 09-11-25

Blackwell Signs with the Detroit Stars

After only one season in Birmingham, Charles Blackwell signed with the Detroit Stars for the 1926 Negro National League season. The Detroit Stars also played in a local Detroit city league (N.N.B.A.) during the season. Steve Pierce who also owned the Pierce Colored Giants (Oakland Pierce Giants) of northern California was the owner of the Detroit Stars during the 1926 season. Bill Riggins (43-35-1) managed the team during the majority of the season until he was replaced by Candy Jim Taylor (8-13). The team played their home games at Mack Park in Detroit.



Mack Park
Home of Detroit Stars

Coming off a very good season in Birmingham, Charlie was offensively very productive for the Detroit Stars as their starting right fielder. He batted .303 for the season in 85 games for Detroit. His complete hitting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1926	Detroit	85	294	54	89	13	5	5	45	13	.303	.432

The Detroit Stars fielded a very good hitting team. Over the course of the 1926 season the Stars posted a .288 team batting average which was third in the “league” and a .445 team slugging percentage which was second in the “league.”

Besides Blackwell the other top hitters on the team were Norman “Turkey” Stearnes (.383 w/ 21 homeruns), Edgar Wesley (.310 w/ 16 homeruns), Harry Kenyon (.310), Bill Riggins (.299) and Harry Jeffries (.287). Charles Blackwell batted in the fifth spot in the order right behind Stars’ sluggers Norman “Turkey” Stearnes and Edgar Wesley.

In addition to solid hitting Detroit also got decent pitching during the season. The pitching staff had a 4.52 team ERA which was fourth best in the Negro National League. Their one dilemma was finding the right combination of hurlers. The Stars used at least thirteen (13) different pitchers during the 1926 season. Andy Cooper (13-9) was the ace of the pitching staff. He led the team in games (37), starts (24), innings pitched (184.1), wins (13), saves (3) and complete games (12). Cooper also had the second best ERA (3.37) on the team. Lewis Hampton (10-11), Harold “Yellowhorse” Morris (8-9), Fred Bell (7-4 w/ 3.12 ERA) and Harry Kenyon (5-7) rounded out the starting rotation for the Stars. Bob Saunders (2-1), Johnnie Bob Dixon (4-0), Harry Jeffries (1-0), Candy Jim Taylor (1-0), Harold Treadwell (1-4), Omer Newsome (1-1), Jack Combs (0-1) and Bill Riggins (0-0) also pitched for Detroit during the season.

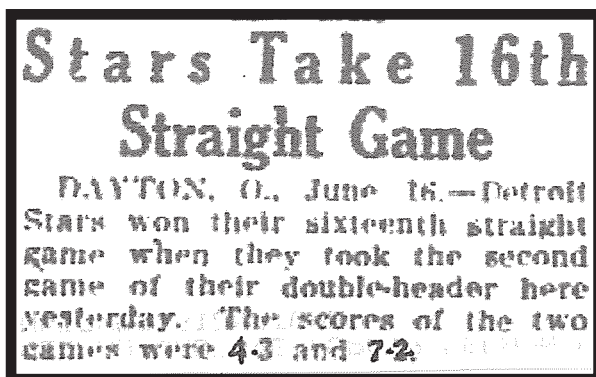


Detroit Stars (1926)
Negro National League

(Back row left to right – Jack Combs, Orville Riggins, Fred Bell, Lewis Hampton, **Norman “Turkey Stearnes,** **Andy Cooper** and Omer Newsome. Seated left to right – Johnny Watson, Larry Brown, Leon Daniels, Harry Kenyon, Harry Jeffries, **Charles Blackwell,** Anderson Pryor and **Edgar Wesley.**)

The highlight of the 1926 season for the Detroit Stars was a sixteen (16) game winning streak that they accomplished in June. When the first half of the Negro National League season ended the Detroit Stars were in second place in the “league” standings with an impressive won-loss record of 31-17 (.646). They were just three games behind the “league” leading Kansas City Monarchs who went 35-12 (.745).

The Detroit Stars struggled during the second half of the season and finished the regular 1926 Negro National League season with a won-loss record of 51-48-1 (.515).



**Detroit Stars Sixteen Game
Winning Streak**

Detroit Times
Detroit, MI
06-16-26

Blackwell Returns to the St. Louis Giants

For some unknown reason Charles Blackwell returned to Charles Mills' St. Louis Giants for the 1927 season. Playing for the Giants seems very odd because Charlie was coming off a very good season with the Detroit Stars of the Negro National League in 1926 and the St. Louis Giants were a lower level team. In addition Blackwell most likely took a significant cut in pay to play for the Giants. Age and diminished playing skills could not have been a factor because Charlie was only 33 years old at the time.

The St. Louis Giants played an independent schedule during the 1927 baseball season. The highlight of their season was a late summer barnstorming tour that included playing several teams from the Negro Southern League. During the season, the St. Louis Giants billed themselves in the media as the "best independent black baseball club in the country." This was a very questionable assessment of the team's overall strength and performance.

The 1927 St. Louis Giants were managed by Felix "Dick" Wallace who was also the team's starting third baseman. Some of the other top players on the team besides Charles Blackwell were Fred Bell (P), Sam Bennett (OF), Charles Brooks (2B/3B), Dan Kennard (C) and Tullie Mc Adoo (1B). Most of these players had played for Charles Mills off and on for years and were mainstays of the St. Louis Giants line-up.

Charles Blackwell started the 1928 season with the St. Louis Giants. Bill Gatewood was the player/manager of the team. Gone from the team were veterans Fred Bell, Sam Bennett, Dan Kennard, Tullie McAdoo and Felix Wallace. New players for the St. Louis Giants included Ameal Brooks (C), Alex Clark (2B), James Ellis (3B/SS), Joe Hewitt (SS), Cowan Hyde (INF/OF) and Taft Newman (OF). The St. Louis Giants promoted themselves as the "best independent ball club in the country" during the 1928 season.

Box scores have been found for 50 at bats in fourteen (14) games that Charles Blackwell played during the 1928 season. Charles collected 17 hits two of which went for homeruns in these 50 "official" plate appearances for a .340 batting average.

He then played briefly for the Atlantic City Giants (six games have been found with him on Atlantic City's roster) before joining the Nashville Elite Giants late in the season.

The Nashville Elite Giants were owned and operated by Tom Wilson who was a prominent Nashville business man. Wilson had formed the Nashville Elite Giants in 1921. Wilson's team had played in the Negro Southern League and independent baseball. There was no Negro Southern League in 1928, so the Elite Giants played an independent schedule during the season and were reportedly an associate member of the Negro National League. Combine this with the

Birmingham Black Barons and Memphis Red Sox playing in the Negro National League the number of strong teams to provide an anchor for a Negro Southern League season did not exist. In addition Bessemer, Hopkinsville and Jackson who had all been previous members of the Negro Southern League did not even field a team in 1928. This left Atlanta, Chattanooga, Evansville and Nashville to play an independent schedule for the season.

Besides Charlie some of the top players on the Nashville's team were Willie Bobo (1B), James "Black Bottom" Buford (SS), Red Charleston (C), Leroy Stratton (3B) and Nish Williams (C). The pitching staff for Nashville included the following seasoned veterans: William "Sug" Cornelius, Jim "Cannonball" Willis and Henry "Red" Wright.

Blackwell's Final Season in Professional Baseball

Charles Blackwell returned to the Nashville Elite Giants for the 1929 season as the team's starting center fielder. This would be his last year to play professional baseball. The Negro Southern League had been reorganized for the 1929 season and Nashville was one of the six teams to secure a franchise. The other five teams were the Atlanta Grey Sox, Chattanooga Black Cats, Evansville Reichert Giants, Louisville Black Caps and New Orleans Black Pelicans. The Nashville Elite Giants also played a significant number of games against "non-league" opponents during the season.

Tom Wilson's Nashville Elite Giants fielded a strong team that included Charles Blackwell (OF), Willie Bobo (1B), Red Charleston (C), Willie Cornelius (OF/P), Leroy Stratton (SS), James "Black Bottom" Buford (3B) and Vicinius "Nish" Williams (OF). Box scores have been found for twenty-eight (28) games in which Charlie Blackwell played for Nashville. In these 28 games he collected 29 hits in 103 at bats for a .282 batting average. He had six doubles, one triple, two homeruns and eleven runs batted in. The highlight of the season for Blackwell was connecting for three hits in a "league" game against Evansville.

The starting pitching rotation for the Elite Giants was comprised of Jim "Cannonball" Willis, Henry "Red" Wright, Willie "Sug" Cornelius, Clarence White and Jim Williams. Tom Jackson, (no first name) Pennington, Willie Spearman and Lennie Williams also pitched for Nashville during the season.

Nashville was managed by Negro League veteran Joe Hewitt. They played their home games at Wilson Park and Sulphur Dell in Nashville.

Newspaper coverage for the season was very limited. Current research has only revealed a handful of box scores and line scores. In games for which we have actual records, the Nashville Elite Giants had a won-loss record of 9-3 (.750) and led the Negro Southern League. Records of the other Negro Southern League teams were as follows: Evansville (7-6), Atlanta (3-3), Louisville (4-7), Chattanooga (4-8) and New Orleans (0-0).

After the season Charles Blackwell returned home with his baseball career coming to an unceremonious end.

Passing of a Legend

Charles Henry Blackwell passed away on April 22, 1935 in the Hines Government Hospital in Chicago. Blackwell had been residing in Proviso Township, Cook County, IL. before his illness struck him three months prior to his death. Charles was only 40 years old.

According to United States military records an application for a grave marker was processed for Charles Henry Blackwell. The grave marker was delivered to the State Mental Hospital in Bradenburg, KY. Reportedly, Charles Henry Blackwell was laid to rest at the Cap Anderson Cemetery in Bradenburg, Kentucky.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1915	West Baden Sprudels	Independent
1915	Indianapolis A.B.C.'s	Independent
1916	Bowser's ABC's	Independent
1916	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1917	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1917	Jewell's Indianapolis A.B.C.'s	Independent
1917	Indianapolis A.B.C.'s	Independent
1918	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1918-1919	Military Service	
1919	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1920-1921	St. Louis Giants	Negro National League
1922-1923	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1924	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1924-1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1925	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro National League
1926	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
1927-1928	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1928	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Independent
1928	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro National League (Associate Member)
1928	Nashville Elite Giants	Independent
1929	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro Southern League

Winter Leagues:

1916	St. Louis Giants	Five Game Series vs Henry Greys (IL)
1916	St. Louis Giants	Championship Series vs East St. Louis Giants
1916	St. Louis Giants	Game vs East St. Louis All Stars
1920	St. Louis Giants	Three Game Series vs St. Louis Cardinals
1920	St. Louis Giants	Game vs Casey Stengel's Philadelphia Nationals
1920	Bacharach Giants	American Series (Cuba)
1920-21	Bacharach Giants	Cuban Winter League
1921	Indianapolis ABC's	Series vs Jack Hendricks' All Stars
1921	St. Louis Giants	Five Game Series vs St. Louis Cardinals
1922	St. Louis Giants	Four Game Series Game vs Detroit Tigers
1922	St. Louis Stars	Nine Game Series vs Wabadas Stars
1922	St. Louis Stars	Game vs Southern League All Stars
1922	St. Louis Stars	Three Game Series vs O'Neil's All Stars
1922-23	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1915	West Baden	19	68	14	19	5	1	2	8	0	.279	.471
1916	Bowser's ABC's	2	7	3	5	1	1	0	2	0	.704	1.143
	St. Louis	26	97	15	27	4	2	0	10	2	.278	.361
1917	St. Louis	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	.500	.500
	Jewell's ABC's	3	12	4	6	1	0	0	4	0	.500	.583
	Indianapolis	43	171	29	45	4	8	0	12	0	.263	.380
1918	St. Louis	9	35	2	10	3	2	0	3	0	.286	.486
1919	St. Louis	25	93	22	35	8	4	4	22	6	.376	.677
1920	St. Louis	64	237	46	76	8	7	6	48	17	.321	.481
1921	St. Louis	84	316	95	127	22	11	13	90	26	.402	.665
1922	St. Louis	73	275	54	105	21	10	7	55	17	.382	.607
1923	St. Louis	68	238	46	73	16	5	5	46	9	.307	.479
1924	St. Louis	57	194	33	50	5	3	6	26	1	.258	.407
1925	St. Louis	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.000	1.000
	Birmingham	75	296	62	91	11	4	15	44	10	.307	.524
1926	Detroit	85	294	54	89	13	5	5	45	13	.303	.432
1927	No Records											
1928	St. Louis	14	50	6	17	0	0	2	7	0	.340	.460
	Atlantic City	6	20	5	5	0	0	1	6	0	.250	.400
1929	Nashville	28	103	16	29	6	1	2	11	1	.282	.417
	Total	683	2511	508	812	128	64	68	440	102	.323	.507

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

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	St. Louis	5	20	4	4	0	1	0	2	-	.200	.300
1921	St. Louis	5	17	1	10	3	1	-	-	3	.588	.882
1922	St. Louis	2	9	3	8	1	2	1	1	1	.889	1.778
1925	Birmingham	2	3	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	.667	1.333
1928	St. Louis	1	5	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	.400	.600
	Total	15	54	12	25	5	4	2	5	5	.463	.815

Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	St. Louis	7	28	5	8	0	3	1	5	2	.286	.607
1921	St. Louis	5	22	7	8	3	0	1	4	1	.364	.636
1922	St. Louis	6	21	4	11	-	3	1	1	-	.524	.952
	Total	18	71	16	27	3	6	3	10	3	.380	.718

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	Bacharach Giants	6	23	3	4	1	1	0	-	1	.174	.304
1920-21	Bacharach Giants	-	17	2	5	0	1	0	-	-	.294	.412
1922-23	Habana	-	78	9	25	2	3	0	-	-	.321	.423
	Total	-	118	14	34	3	5	0	-	1	.288	.398

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro League	683	2511	508	812	128	64	68	440	102	.323	.507
Non-League	15	54	12	25	5	4	2	5	5	.463	.815
Exhibition	18	71	16	27	3	6	3	10	3	.380	.718
Cuba	-	118	14	34	3	5	0	-	1	.288	.398
Total	716	2754	550	898	139	79	73	455	111	.326	.513

Assessing the Career of Charles Blackwell

- All Negro League baseball researchers agree that Charles Blackwell was an **outstanding hitter**. The following research as compiled by seven (7) leading Negro League research groups presents the following yearly batting averages, career at bats, career hits and career batting average for Charles Blackwell’s career:

	CNLBR	Lester/Clark and Stivers	Seamheads	Baseball Reference	John Holway	James Riley	MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia
1915	.279	.207	.271	.271	.226	-	.167
1916	.308	.302	.278	.278	.321	.286	.290
1917	.283	.300	.252	.252	.250	-	.259
1918	.286	.286	-	-	.333	-	-
1919	.376	.376	.364	.364	.444	-	-
1920	.321	.321	.307	.303	.357	.322	.322
1921	.402	.458	.402	.471	.484	.448	.448
1922	.382	.357	.353	.361	.365	.382	.382
1923	.307	.307	.307	.307	.302	.311	.311
1924	.258	.255	.250	.246	.259	.258	.258
1925	.307	.306	.307	.299	.309	.307	.307
1926	.303	.295	.303	.294	.276	.276	.276
1927	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1928	.314	.340	.222	.340	-	-	.424
1929	.282	.282	.270	.237	.244	-	.257
Career At Bats	2511	2113	2221	2367	1967	-	1797
Career Hits	812	687	698	727	655	-	583
Career Batting Average	.323	.325	.314	.307	.333	.329	.324

(Notes – CNLBR stands for the Center for Negro League Baseball Research. Lester, Clark and Stivers stands for the research team of Larry Lester, Dick Clark and Wayne Stivers. John Holway’s statistics include both “league” and “non-league” games in their totals. The CNLBR and the team of Lester, Clark and Stivers only include “league” games and games against “high” level competition in their totals.

Besides hitting for average, Charles Blackwell also hit for power. Current research has revealed that over his career in Negro baseball, Blackwell accumulated 812 hits in 2511 at bats for a .323 batting average. His hit total includes 128 doubles, 64 triples and 68 homeruns. This equates to an impressive .507 slugging percentage. In games against all levels of competition Charles compiled a .513 slugging percentage. It is important to note that we are still missing a significant number of games in which Blackwell played and these numbers are most likely significantly higher.

Currently research by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research has produced batting statistics for thirteen (13) of his fifteen (15) seasons in professional baseball. Blackwell hit over .300 in nine (9) of these thirteen (13) seasons. The 1918 season was not counted in these statistics because only nine (9) games with thirty-five (35) at bats have currently been found and this is too small of a sample to make a value judgment as to his level of performance for this season.

During the prime years of his career from 1919 to 1926 Charles posted a batting average of .333 (647 for 1944).

Eighteen (18) games with twenty-seven (27) hits in seventy-one (71) at bats have been found for him playing in exhibition games against Major League opponents. From box scores currently located, Blackwell compiled a .380 career batting average with a .718 slugging percentage while playing against Major League clubs and all-star teams. Charles Blackwell could hit Major League pitching.

- One of the biggest problems in evaluating the baseball career of Charles Blackwell is that we are **missing a significant number of the games in which he played**. Some of the examples of this are as follows:
 1. In 1915 Blackwell played for the West Baden Sprudels and was one of their starting outfielders. According to the Freeman newspaper, the Sprudels won at least 68 games during the 1915 season. Unfortunately we only have box scores for 19 games in which Charles was in the line-up. In short we are missing dozens of games in which he played during his rookie season.
 2. Blackwell played professional baseball for 15 seasons. He should have averaged playing at least 70-75 games per season against top level competition. Current research has only located 683 games that Charles Blackwell played against top level teams. We are probably missing 40-50 % of the games that he most likely played in during his career.
 3. Besides games against top level competition, Negro baseball teams also played a significant number of games against lower level competition each season. Unfortunately our current research has only identified 15 “non-league” games for his career. The number one problem is that during the time in which Blackwell played, newspaper coverage was most often very poor.
- When called upon Charles Blackwell possessed **excellent speed**. Two examples of this was that in 1921 he finished third in stolen bases with 27 just behind Oscar Charleston (37) and Joe Hewitt (35). Then in 1922 Charles had 17 stolen bases which was 2nd best in the Negro National League. His speed also provided him with a significant advantage when he was playing in the outfield.
- During his career he was considered an **outstanding defensive player** as an outfielder. Defensively his speed was his greatest asset because it gave him exceptional range.
- Blackwell was a **complete ball player** who could do it all. He could hit, run and play defense.
- Many Negro baseball players played winter baseball to supplement their income. Research has identified that Blackwell **only played winter baseball during two of his fifteen seasons**. The question is why didn't Charles play more winter baseball during his professional career.

Current research has not revealed Charles Blackwell playing post season or winter baseball after his 1922-23 season in Cuba with the Habana Leones.

- **Lost parts of two baseball seasons in 1918-1919 due to his military service.**
- **Reportedly, Charles Blackwell had a drinking problem.** This would have definitely had a negative impact on his performance on the field. It would also explain several interesting career moves that he made.

Selected Career Highlights

- Charles Blackwell compiled a career batting average of .323 with a slugging percentage of .507 for his career in Negro baseball. In games against all levels of competition, he posted a .326 batting average with a .513 slugging percentage.
- During the prime years (1919 to 1926) of his professional Negro baseball career Blackwell hit for a .333 batting average.
- Blackwell seemed to really come into his own as a hitter during the 1919 and 1920 baseball seasons. Current research credits him with a .376 batting average in 1919 and .321 in 1920.
- Charles was a starting outfielder for the St. Louis Giants team that played in the inaugural season of the Negro National League in 1920.
- In 1921 Blackwell had the best season in his career. In 84 games and 316 at bats, Charles Blackwell put up the following statistics 127 hits, 22 doubles, 11 triples, 13 homeruns, 90 runs batted in, .402 batting average and .665 slugging percentage.
- Blackwell followed his 1921 season with another extremely productive season in 1922. In 73 Negro National League games and 275 at bats in 1922 Charles compiled the following statistics: 21 doubles, 10 triples, 7 homeruns, 55 runs batted in, .382 batting average and .607 slugging percentage.
- During the 1922-23 season when he was in Cuba playing for Habana, Blackwell posted a very respectable .321 batting average for the season.
- Charles Blackwell's 15 homeruns while playing for the Birmingham Black Barons in 1925 were the third best in the Negro National League right behind Norman "Turkey" Stearnes and Edgar Wesley who each had 18 homeruns.
- Hitting statistics have been found for 13 of the 15 years Charles Blackwell played Negro baseball. Charlie batted over .300 in 9 of the 13 seasons for which we have found batting statistics.
- Eighteen (18) games with twenty-seven (27) hits in seventy-one (71) at bats have been found for him playing in exhibition games against Major League opponents. From box scored currently located, Blackwell compiled a .380 career batting average with a .718 slugging percentage while playing against Major League clubs and all-star teams. Charles Blackwell could hit Major League pitching.
- During the 1920's Charles Blackwell was one of the best hitters in Negro League baseball.
- Charles H. Blackwell is truly a "Forgotten Hero" whose career and contribution to Negro baseball should be remembered

St. Louis Giants
Negro National League
1920

The St. Louis Giants were one of the eight teams to play in the inaugural season of the Negro National League in 1920. The teams that played in the first season of the Negro National League were the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars, Dayton Marcos, Detroit Stars, Indianapolis ABCs, Kansas City Monarchs and the St. Louis Giants.

The starting line-up for the 1920 St. Louis Giants was as follows:

St. Louis Giants (1920)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Tullie McAdoo	OF	Charles Blackwell
2B	Lunie Danage	OF	Sidney Brooks
SS	Eddie Holtz	OF	Doc Dudley
3B	Dick Wallace		
C	Dan Kennard	P	Bill Drake
		P	John Finner



St. Louis Giants (1920)
 Negro National League