

# **Forgotten Heroes: Women of the Negro Leagues**



**by**

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**Toni Stone**  
**The First Lady of Negro League Baseball**



**New Orleans Creoles  
(1949-1950)**

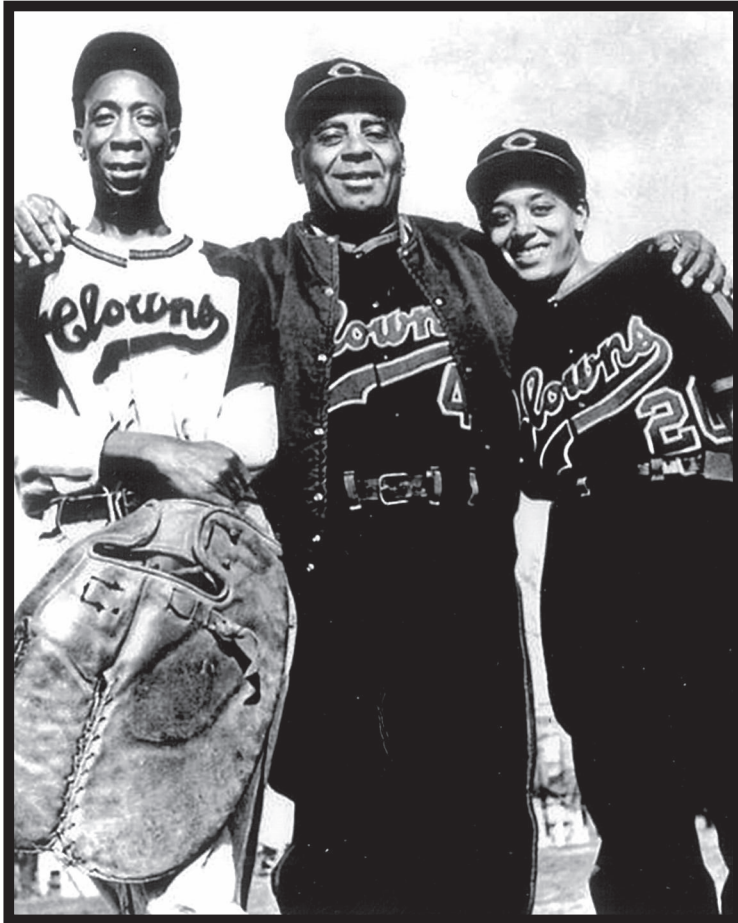


**Indianapolis Clowns  
(1953)**

## Women in the Negro Leagues

When people think about Negro League baseball, they remember the players like Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, James “Cool Pappa” Bell, Walter “Buck” Leonard, Jackie Robinson etc. Sometimes they remember the great teams like Hilldale, Homestead Grays, New York Lincoln Giants, New York Cubans, Philadelphia Giants or the Pittsburgh Crawfords. The one thing that all of these players and teams have in common besides being African Americans is that the players were all men and the teams were all male.

Unfortunately, many people do not know that women have played an important role in the history of black baseball in America.



**King Tut, Oscar Charleston and Connie Morgan**  
Indianapolis Clowns  
1954

As far back as the mid-1880's African-American females were playing professional baseball. In 1883 the New York Times featured a story on the Dolly Vardens who were an all-female African American professional baseball team. The Baltimore Black Sox Girls team played on the East coast during the 1890's. In 1911 the Black Bronchos based out of St. Louis (MO) were a popular African-American female professional team that barnstormed throughout the Midwest. The Royal Poinciana Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida sponsored a men's team for many years starting in 1898 through the early 1930's but very few people know that they also had an all-girls team who were called the "Giants" in 1913.

Individual African-American young ladies playing on all-male teams can be traced back to at least 1917 when Pearl Barrett was the featured first baseman for the Havana Stars.

In the 1940's and 1950's female players were signed in an effort to bring more fans to the stadiums and it worked. Several females also owned black baseball teams and were successful in their endeavors. In addition females contributed to Negro League baseball in numerous other ways.

Some of the key roles that women played in Negro League baseball that will be discussed in this book are as follows:

- Players on Negro League Teams
- Owners of Major Negro League Teams
- Players on Major Independent Teams
- All African American Women's Teams
- Supportive Roles of Women in Negro League Baseball

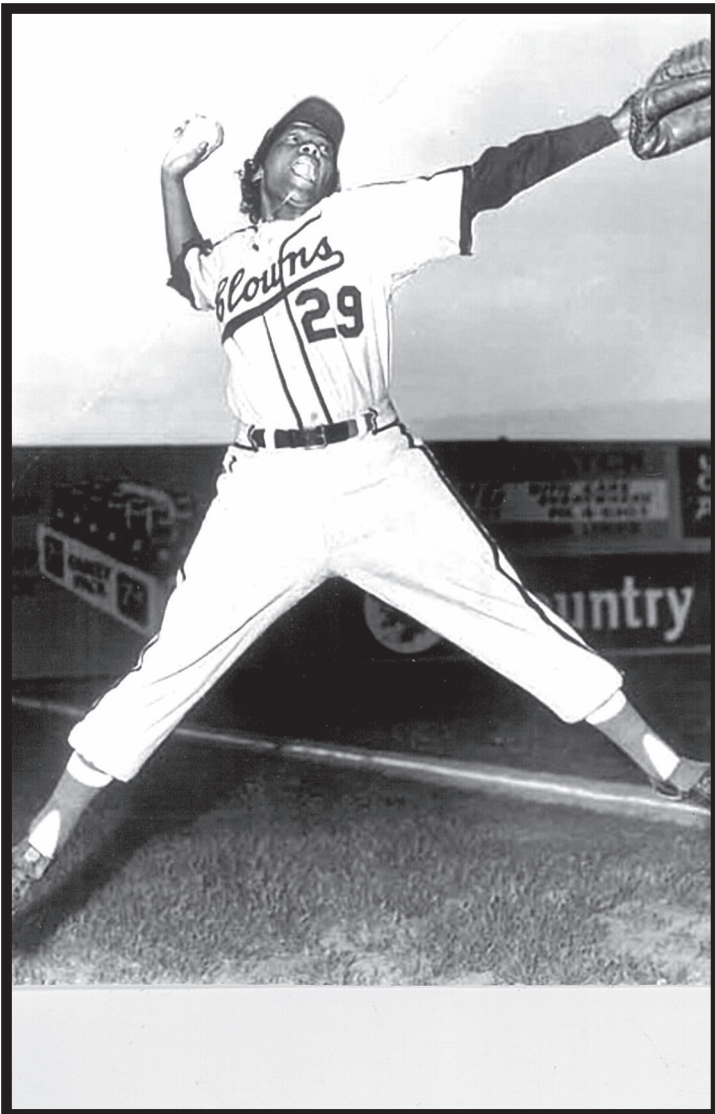


# Women Players in the Negro American League

## Marcenia Lyle “Toni” Stone

Indianapolis Clowns  
(1953)  
and  
Kansas City Monarchs  
(1954)

Marcenia Lyle “Toni” Stone was born on July 17, 1921 in Bluefield, West Virginia to Boykin and Willa Maynard Stone. When she was 10 years old her family moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. Toni grew up in the Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul and honed her baseball skills on the local playgrounds. Growing up she was considered a tomboy because she always chose to play baseball with the boys. One of the first organized teams Toni played for was St. Peter Claver Catholic Church boys’ baseball team in the Catholic Boys Midget Baseball League. Not only was she the only girl on the team but she was the only girl in the entire league. After grammar school, Toni enrolled at Hammond Junior High School where she was a star athlete. Toni also joined the St. Paul Girls Athletic Association where she excelled in baseball, swimming and track. After graduating from Hammond, she enrolled at Mechanic Arts High School. In 1940 at the age of nineteen (19) she dropped out of school without receiving her diploma.



During her professional playing days she stood five feet seven and one half inches tall and weighed 146 pounds. Stone threw the ball right handed and batted from the right hand side of the plate. She was considered a decent hitter and an average fielder in the male dominated sport of baseball. In the field she played second base her entire career. Speed was one of her greatest physical attributes. According to the Indianapolis Clowns, she ran an 11.0 hundred yard dash. Without a doubt her personal determination and grit were her greatest assets as a ball player. She was also an exemplary person who was a solid teammate at the ball park and a lady off the field. Toni Stone is generally credited as being the first woman to play baseball in the Negro American League or in any men’s professional league on a full time basis.

She began her sports career in St. Paul (MN) playing semi-pro softball for both women’s and men’s teams in the St. Paul area. The first high level team she played for was the Highlex Girls Softball Club of St. Paul. While attending Roosevelt High School, Toni switched to playing baseball exclusively. During the mid-1930’s she played for teams in the St. Paul Meat Packing League. In 1936 Toni convinced former St. Louis Cardinals catcher Gabby Street to let her try out for his baseball school. Street was so impressed with her skills that he bought her a



new pair of spikes and allowed her to attend his baseball school at Lexington Park in St. Paul. By 1936 Toni Stone was playing second base for the St. Paul Giants who were a local men's semi-pro team.

The Twin City Colored Giants was the first "real" professional team for which Stone played. Toni started working out with the team in 1937 and it wasn't long before she was in the starting line-up. The Colored Giants were an independent club that played a barnstorming schedule throughout the Midwest, the West Coast and into Canada. The Twin Cities Colored Giants were managed by George White. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Minneapolis Spokesman on July 30, 1937, Toni Stone was listed as a pitcher for the Twin City Colored Giants.

With the onset of World War II, Toni moved to the Fillmore District of San Francisco in 1943 to be close to her sister (Bernous) who was ill at the time. After moving to the Bay Area Toni found work in a local cafeteria then at a shipyard as a forklift driver. While living in San Francisco, Toni applied to play American Legion baseball. To get around the age restriction of seventeen (17), Toni shaved ten (10) years off her "real" age and was allowed to play for Allroyd Love's A.H. Wall Post # 435 team. She played American Legion ball in the San Francisco area from the mid-1940's through 1947. In 1948 Toni Stone played for a semi-pro team in the Peninsula Baseball League.

Toni Stone joined the San Francisco Sea Lions in the spring of 1949 as the team's starting second baseman and lead-off hitter. The San Francisco Sea Lions were owned by Hal King and Harold "Yellow Horse" Morris. The team was managed by veteran ball player Cleo "Baldy" Benson. They were already a very successful independent-barnstorming team when Stone joined them. During the 1948 season the Sea Lions had posted a reported won-loss record of 150-20 (.882).

When the San Francisco Sea Lions rolled into New Orleans to play a triple header with the New Orleans Creoles and Fort Worth Tigers on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Toni was with the team when they checked into the Page Hotel. According to Toni she loved the city of New Orleans. She loved the parade to the ball park, the enthusiastic fans, the music and the overall vibrancy of the city. Allen Page who owned the New Orleans Creoles was expecting a big turnout at Pelican Park with the appearance of Toni Stone and the San Francisco Sea Lions. Page was not disappointed. Nearly 5,000 fans paid their way into the stadium. The Creoles won the first game 20-7 over the Fort Worth Tigers and then the Creoles battled the San Francisco Sea Lions to a 7-7 tie when the game was called due to darkness. After the game Toni Stone and the Sea Lions headed north to Arkansas.

Allen Page was impressed with two things about Toni Stone after seeing her play in New Orleans. First she was a "real" gate attraction and drew a tremendous crowd to the ball park. Secondly, she could play ball. Page contacted Toni about coming to play for the New Orleans Creoles of the Negro Southern League and offered her a salary of \$ 300 per month. The offer from Page hit Toni at the right time because she was making less than \$ 200 a month and had just recently found out that she was getting paid less than the male ball players. Toni immediately left San Francisco and signed with New Orleans.



**Toni Stone**  
San Francisco Sea Lions  
(1949)

The 1949 New Orleans Creoles were the strongest team that Toni had ever played for up to that point in her career. They were a mix of young ball players like 18 year old Buddy Lombard and older veterans like 39 year old Olan "Jelly" Taylor. In addition, just about every player on the



**Pelican Stadium**  
Home of the New Orleans Creoles

team had Negro League playing experience. The starting line-up for the New Orleans Creoles when Toni Stone joined them included Alfred “Buddy” Armour (OF), Frank Evans (OF), Charlie Johnson (C), Al Pinkston (1B) Freddie Shepard (Manager/OF) and Joe Wiley (2B). When Toni Stone signed with the New Orleans Creoles, she knew she had moved up a significant level in the world of black baseball and didn’t want to be perceived as a side show or novelty act. Toni wanted to be judged on her skills as a baseball player. This was particularly important because of all the Major League scouts who were attending the ball games in which she was playing. As soon as she joined the team, the Creoles left New Orleans for a mid-western barnstorming tour. The team returned home with a 44-8 (.846) record for the trip. Toni Stone had a very good season with the New Orleans Creoles. According to a newspaper article that appeared in The Greenville Democrat of Greenville (MS), Toni played in 78 games for the Creoles during the 1949 season and compiled a .326 batting average for the season.

After the 1949 season was over, Toni returned to Oakland (CA). During the off season she took a variety of odd jobs. According to Toni, she didn’t want a permanent job that could possibly interfere with her baseball career.

Toni Stone returned to the New Orleans Creoles for the 1950 Negro Southern League season. She played solid baseball the entire season and by mid-season she was hitting around .300 according to an article that appeared in the Daily Nonpareil of Council Bluffs (IA). After the regular season Toni returned home to Oakland. Starting in the mid-1940’s Toni had developed a relationship with Aurelious Alberga who was almost 40 years her elder. Aurelious was 67 and Toni was 29. Alberga was a well-known political figure in the Bay Area. On December 23, 1950 Toni Stone married Aurelious Alberga.

At her husband’s insistence, Toni Stone did not play professional baseball during the 1951 season. Toni worked at several different jobs and concentrated on making repairs to her home.



**Toni Stone and Joe Louis**

The 1952 season was difficult for professional black baseball teams. The Negro Southern League had folded at the end of the 1951 season. Even Allen Page who had been a force in black baseball in the South had a difficult time. Page's "new" team, the New Orleans Black Pelicans, was faced with financial difficulties all season. From the time the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) was formed in 1943, Toni Stone had always wanted to play against the top female players and teams in the country. In 1952 she wrote "league" officials asking for a try-out, but the "league" was still segregated and she never got a call.

Being away from professional baseball in 1951 and 1952 did not mean that Toni did not stay in shape. Toni worked out on a regular basis and played for semiprofessional and sandlot teams during the baseball season. She knew that she was going to return to pro ball; she just didn't know when.

Prior to the start of the 1953 season Toni Stone made history when she was signed in February of 1953 by Syd Pollock to play second base for the world famous Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League. In early April of 1953 Stone reported for spring training at Norfolk (VA).

Pollock knew that having a female player on his roster would be a great marketing tool that would result in him being able to sell more tickets and put more fans in the stadium. To hype Stone's signing with the Indianapolis Clowns and garner even greater publicity, Clowns management reported that Toni's contract paid her \$ 12,000 a season when in fact according to Toni Stone herself, she never made more than \$ 400 a month playing for the Indianapolis Clowns. In addition the team inflated her batting average to .364 which would have given her the fourth best batting average in the Negro American League. In reality according to the Howe News Bureau who kept the "official" statistics for the "league," Toni only hit a mere .243. An interesting side note to her signing with the Indianapolis Clowns was that she filled the second base position vacated by Hank Aaron who had been signed by the Boston Braves.

In what may have been another attempt to hype Toni Stone as a ball player, Syd Pollock announced at the end of May in 1953 that Stone's play had been so impressive that a team from the Japanese League had offered him \$ 25,000 for Toni's contract to play ball. No mention of which team in Japan or any written documentation was ever presented to support Pollock's claim.

The greatest impact Toni Stone had on the Clowns was at the box office. She drew huge crowds everywhere the Indianapolis Clowns played. During the 1953 season, the Indianapolis Clowns drew more fans than any other team in the Negro American League. One excellent example of this occurred at Briggs Field in Detroit on Father's Day of 1953. Over 26,000 fans paid admission to Briggs Field to see the Clowns take on the Kansas City Monarchs in a doubleheader. In short Toni Stone drew fans to the ball park and that was good for everybody.



NO GAG, IT SAYS HERE:

# Clowns Report Signing Gal To Play Second Base

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. — Syd Pollock, owner and general manager of the nationally famous Indianapolis Clowns, has signed the first female baseball star to play in the Negro American League. She will hold down a regular berth at second base this coming season for the 1952 Colored baseball champions.

An outstanding girl athlete, Miss Marcenia Lyle Stone, better known as 'Toni' Stone, has inked a contract with the Clowns reportedly calling for \$12,000 for her first season's work. Pollock emphatically stated, "this is no publicity stunt! Toni Stone will be the regular second baseman for the Clowns. She has proven her ability by playing three years with the New Orleans (La.) Creoles from 1948 through 1950."

## 21 Years Old

Toni, born in St. Paul, Minn. only July 17, 1931, was one of three girls and a boy, which comprised the family of Mr. and Mrs. Boykin Stone. She now lives in Oakland, Calif. Early in her life, her dad noticed the muscular coordination of Toni and visioned some sort of athletic career for her.

After completing grammar school, she entered Roosevelt High in St. Paul and joined the Girls Athletic Association, where she compiled an enviable record in track, swimming and baseball.

Using her feminine wiles, Toni strolled into St. Paul Stadium during the progress of

a boys baseball school session conducted by Gabby Street, who was manager of the Saints Baseball Club in the American Association.

## Encouraged By Street

Street encouraged the girl to get in there and show her ability



TONI STONE

along with the boys and his words lingered with Toni and heightened her ambition to become an outstanding player.

Toni played with the Wall Post No. 435 American Legion from 1943 through '45, with the strong San Francisco Sea Lions in 1947, joining the Creoles in '48.

Toni will be the first to ad-

mit her diamond foes show her no mercy because of her sex. The pitchers throw just as hard and base runners slide into second with spikes just as high. But she likes the game and keeps coming back for more.

Afro-American

02-28-53



During the 1953 season, Toni Stone appeared in fifty (50) games for the Indianapolis Clowns. Everywhere Indianapolis played, Toni was always in the news. Her exposure in the media also brought the fans out to the ball park. It was not uncommon for the Clowns to draw over 10,000 fans to a game when it was announced that Toni would be in the starting line-up. The media often referred to Ms. Stone as “The Darling of the Clowns.”

According to an article that appeared in the Baltimore Afro-American on August 11, 1953 Toni Stone was selected to play in the East-West All Star game at Comiskey Park in Chicago (IL). The newspaper article stated she would only play an inning or two but should draw a huge crowd for the game. It does not appear that this newspaper reporting was correct. When the Afro-American published the “official” rosters for both teams on August 8<sup>th</sup>, Stone’s name does not appear. In addition a review of the box score for the actual game does not show her playing in the game. One can only surmise that there may have been some consideration of including Toni for marketing purposes but when the final decisions were made for the rosters, Toni did not make the team.

Prior to the start of the 1954 season her contract was sold to the Kansas City Monarchs. The terms of the sale were never made public. With her playing time cut by the Monarchs, Toni’s play on the field suffered. When the 1954 season ended an extremely dissatisfied Toni Stone returned to her home in Oakland, California. Feeling exploited and not appreciated Toni Stone never returned to the Negro Leagues.

### Toni Stone

According to the Howe News Bureau her “official” batting statistics for the 1953 and 1954 Negro American League seasons were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1953	Indianapolis	50	74	4	18	1	0	0	3	1	.243	.257
1954	Kansas City	57	71	9	14	1	0	0	3	0	.197	.211
	Total	107	145	13	32	2	0	0	6	1	.221	.234

Even though Toni did not have a particularly high batting average, she did not hurt the team by striking out a lot. In 145 at bats she only struck out 15 times. Allan Pollock in his book, Barnstorming to Heaven, really put Toni’s passion and impact on the game into perspective. He is quoted in the book as follows:

“ Those were the numbers (referring to the Howe News Bureau statistics), but the numbers don’t convey her zest for the game; her grunts, audible to the stands, as base runners slammed her out of double plays or did the same to others when she was on base; the clouds of dust enfolding her slides; the sweat on her face as she took her lead dancing back and forth to aggravate the pitcher; her dives sliding along the ground after grounders up the middle; her smile and the wave of her cap from first base to ovations after her singles; her rhubarbs with the umpires; her leaps into the air for liners; and the crowd excitement. It was electric every time she hit the ball or handled it in the field.”



**BIG TIME NEGRO BASEBALL**  
Returns To  
**VICTORY FIELD**  
**Indianapolis Clowns**  
**With TONI STONE**  
The Greatest "Second-base man" in the League  
—vs.—  
**Memphis Red Sox**  
"GOOSE" CURRY, MGR.  
**June 17th - 8:15 p. m.**  
**All Seats \$1.10 All Seats**  
Busses Direct to Park Thru Indiana Ave. Bridge  
"JOIN THE MOTORCADE JUST FOR FUN"  
A Jackson Promotion

Afro-American  
06-13-53

## Clowns sell Toni Stone to Kansas City Monarchs

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. — Owner Syd Pollack of the Indianapolis Clowns, three-time champions of the Negro American League announced, this week, the sale of Miss Toni Stone to the Kansas City Monarchs.

Miss Stone was the first woman player to sign a NAL contract. Last year she lured huge crowds wherever the funmaking diamond aggregation played.

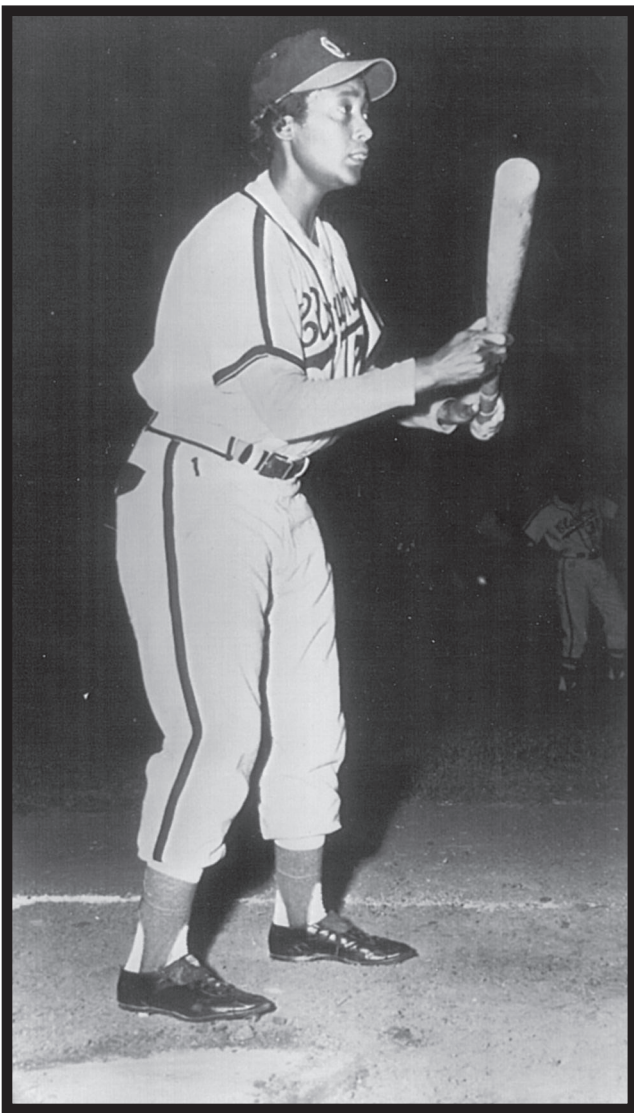
To replace her, Pollack has signed a 19-year-old Miss Connie Morgan of Philadelphia to a contract estimated at \$10,000 a season.

A second girl has been signed in the person of Miss Mattie Peanut Johnson, a pitcher of Long Branch, N.J.

Pollack did not reveal the amount he received for the sale of Miss Stone.

Baltimore Afro-American  
03-09-54





According to Toni Stone her most memorable moment in professional baseball came when she was playing for the Indianapolis Clowns and got a hit off the legendary Satchel Paige in an exhibition game. Interestingly enough it was the only hit Paige gave up that day. Most of her experiences in the Negro American League were not positive according to interviews that Stone gave later in life. Toni felt she was shunned, disrespected and generally made to feel not welcomed.

After retiring from the Negro American League, she continued to be very active in baseball in the Oakland area. Reportedly, Toni Stone continued to play and coach semi-pro and sandlot teams in California until she was in her sixties. She also pursued a career in nursing and took care of her husband Aurelius until he passed away in 1988.

Toni Stone's contributions to baseball were officially recognized first in 1985 when she was inducted into the Women's Sports Foundation's International Women's Sports Hall of Fame and then in 1993 when she was elected to the Women's Sports Hall of Fame located in Long Island, New York.

**Toni Stone**  
Indianapolis Clowns

Toni Stone passed away from heart failure on November 2, 1996 at the age of seventy-five (75) in a nursing home in Alameda, California.

## The New York Times

### SPORTS

# Toni Stone, 75, First Woman To Play Big-League Baseball

By ROBERT MCG. THOMAS JR. NOV. 10, 1996

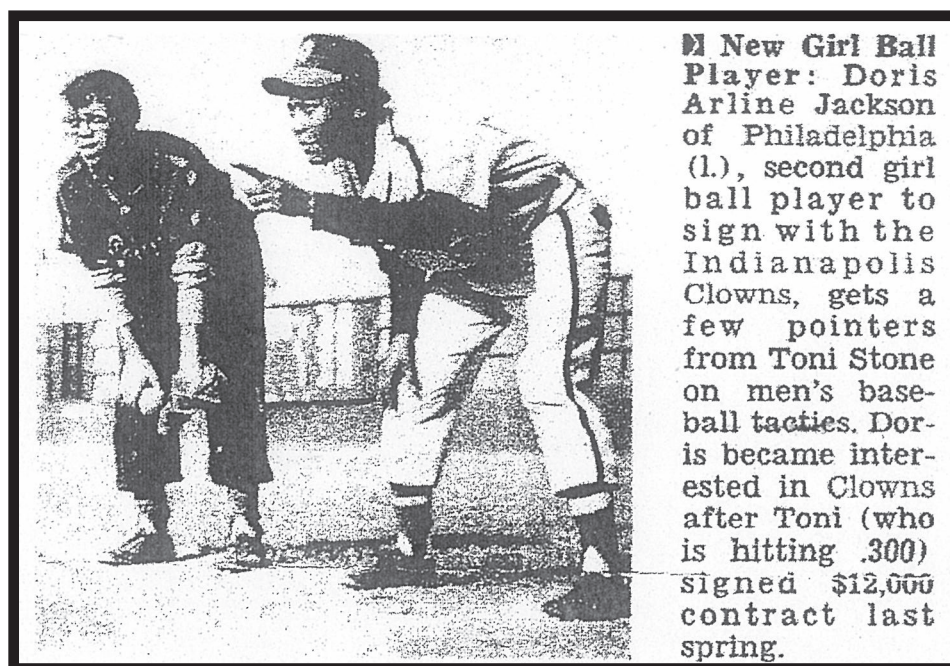
Toni Stone, a scrappy second baseman who became a footnote to baseball history in 1953 as a member of the Negro League's Indianapolis Clowns when she became the first woman to play as a regular on a big-league professional team, died on Nov. 2 at a nursing home in Alameda, Calif. She was 75 and had lived in Oakland, Calif., for many years.

**Toni Stone – Obituary**  
New York Times  
11-10-96

**Doris Arline Jackson and Toni Stone**  
**Indianapolis Clowns**  
**(1953)**



**Afro-American**  
 08-01-53



**Jet Magazine**  
 1953



## Doris Arline Jackson

Indianapolis Clowns  
(1953)

During the 1953 Indianapolis Clowns season, Toni Stone suffered at least two significant injuries. The first occurred when she batting and got hit in the arm by a pitched ball. She suffered a bruised arm that forced her to miss several games on the Indianapolis Clowns Midwest barnstorming tour. The second incident took place in late June while Toni was playing a doubleheader against the Kansas City Monarchs in Toledo (OH). Toni pulled a ligament in her shoulder while diving for a line drive. The injury was so severe that it put in the hospital for several days. Then when she tried to return to play for the team, the pain in her shoulder landed her back in the emergency room of a local hospital.

With Toni Stone being the “featured” attraction of the team and drawing tremendous crowds everywhere the Clowns played, Syd Pollock could not be without his now famous girl ball player. As a precaution against Toni Stone getting injured again and not being able to play, Pollock signed Doris Arline Jackson in mid to late July as what he termed Toni’s “understudy.” In reality Doris was Syd’s insurance policy. If Toni got hurt again he would at least still have a female ball player in the line-up.

Current research has not uncovered an “official” game in which Doris Jackson played. What we do know for sure is that Doris Jackson appears at least twice in the Afro-American newspaper. The first is a photo which appears in the July 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Afro-American. The photo has Doris in a Clowns uniform in the dugout with Toni Stone and Buster Haywood. The caption under the photo reads as follows: “Doris Jackson, an 18 year old Philly girl who was recently signed as her (Toni Stone) replacement.” The second appearance of Doris Jackson in the Afro-American is on August 1<sup>st</sup>. This edition of the newspaper shows Doris in two photos wearing an Indianapolis Clowns uniform. The caption under the photos identifies that Ms. Jackson resides at 5512 Poplar in Philadelphia. An interesting side note is that the house is still standing.

Doris and Toni also appear together in a 1953 issue of Jet magazine. Doris Arline Jackson is pictured with Toni Stone at a ball park. According to the caption under the picture Ms. Jackson had been signed by the Indianapolis Clowns as the second female to play in the Negro Leagues. In the photo Toni Stone is giving her some pointers on playing Negro League baseball. Ms. Jackson was reported to have been from Philadelphia (PA).

Research by Cam Perron of the Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) identifies that Doris Arline Jackson passed away in the 1990’s in Philadelphia.



**LURES THrong** — Toni Stone, 22-year-old femme second sacker of the Indianapolis Clowns, shown in center, was responsible for drawing 11,000 baseball fans to Griffith Stadium on Tuesday night. The Clowns edged the Birmingham Barons by a 5-4 score in a 14-inning marathon. On the left is Doris Jackson, an 18-year-old Philly girl who was

Afro-American

07-25-53



## Deseria “Boo Boo” Robinson

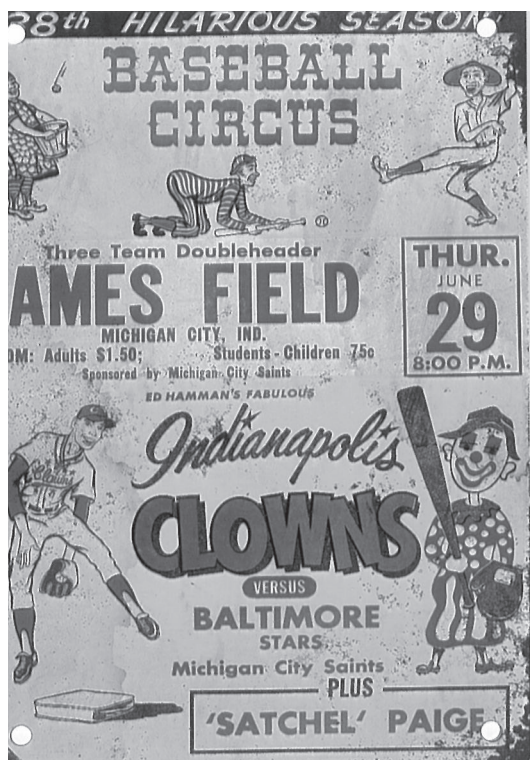
Indianapolis Clowns  
(1953)

About two weeks after Doris Arline Jackson was signed, Syd Pollock signed another female player for insurance in case Toni Stone was reinjured and could not play. This player’s name was Deseria “Boo Boo” Robinson. She was a twenty-three (23) year old infielder who had played for the Capeharts who were a semi-professional team based out of Fort Wayne (IN).

It has been documented that Deseria was in uniform and on the bench with both Doris Jackson and Toni Stone in a game that the Indianapolis Clowns played against the Kansas City Monarchs in late July.

The ease of Syd Pollock signing another female player comes as no surprise because according to his son Allan Pollock, Syd had a thick file in his Tarrytown (NY) office entitled “Girl Players.” It seems once Syd Pollock signed Toni Stone his was inundated with dozens of letters from all over the country of females wanting to play for the Indianapolis Clowns. In short, Syd Pollock had no shortage of female ball players wanting to join his team.

Current research indicates that Deseria “Boo Boo” Robinson was only with the team a short period of time and was released when the scare of Toni Stone getting reinjured had subsided. In addition research has not uncovered a box score with Ms. Robinson actually playing in an “official” game.



Indianapolis Clowns  
vs  
Baltimore Stars



Indianapolis Clowns  
vs  
New York Royals

## Mamie “Peanut” Johnson

Indianapolis Clowns  
(1953-1954)

Mamie “Peanut” Johnson was born on September 27, 1935 in Ridgeway, South Carolina to Gentry Harrison and Della Belton Havelow. Mamie was raised by her grandmother (Cendonia Belton) in Ridgeway. When her grandmother died, Mamie moved to Long Branch, New Jersey to live with her aunt and uncle. She started playing baseball with local area teams in her “new” hometown of Long Branch (NJ). Early in her career she played in the Long Branch Police Athletic League. She also played for Long Branch High School, Lincoln Athletic Club and St. Cyrians. After she graduated from high school, Mamie moved to the Washington, D.C. area to live with her mother.

She stood five feet four inches tall and weighed 100 to 120 pounds during her playing career. Peanut threw right handed and batted right handed. During her career in the Negro Leagues she was primarily a pitcher but also played in the infield.



**Mamie Johnson**  
Indianapolis Clowns  
(1953-1954)

In 1951 Mamie signed with the Alexandria All Stars who were based in the Washington, D.C. area. The Alexandria All Stars were a local semi-pro ball club who played an independent schedule. During her baseball career she played for the Alexandria All Stars until about 1962.

In the early 1950's Mamie Johnson and her friend Rita Jones showed up for an open try-out in Alexandria (VA) for the All American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL). Rita had played first base on the St. Cyprian's team with Mamie. According to Mamie, Rita was the best first baseman she ever saw play. In Mamie's own words: "They looked at me like I was crazy. They never even let me try-out."

In 1953 Bish Tyson who had played in the Negro Leagues saw "Peanut" playing on a local baseball field by the name of Banneker Field in Washington, D.C. Tyson then introduced Mamie to Bunny Downs of the Indianapolis Clowns. Downs was so impressed with her that he recommended that Clowns owner Syd Pollack sign her. After the end of the Indianapolis Clowns' 1953 regular season, Syd Pollock signed Mamie Johnson as a pitcher. As soon as she signed, Mamie quit her job at the ice cream parlor at which she had been working and headed to Norfolk (VA) to join up with the team. When she signed with the Clowns she became the second female to play in the Negro Leagues. She accompanied the team on a two month long barnstorming tour against the Negro League All Stars. According to newspaper reports she did well on the tour and averaged a strikeout per inning against her opponents.

Mamie's play on the 1953 barnstorming tour impressed Sy Pollock so much that he signed her for the 1954 Clowns' Negro American League season. Peanut's manager for the 1954 season was the legendary Oscar Charleston. Mamie's assessment of Charleston was very simple – "you either played ball or you went home." According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Baltimore Afro- American on May 5<sup>th</sup>, Mamie got off to a good start in the 1954 season with the Clowns by holding her opponents scoreless in her first four appearances on the mound. In mid-June of 1954 the Indianapolis Clowns released Mamie. According to Mamie this was a difficult time for her because she had a small baby at home and just couldn't stay on the road playing ball.



# Indianapolis Clowns Program (1954)

## INDIANAPOLIS CLOWNS - Great Rivals of the Monarchs



### ONE OF KING TUT'S FAVORITE JOKES



### KANSAS CITY MONARCHS TEAM ROSTER

Subject to change

No.	Name	Age	Wt.	Hgt.	
—	Toni Stone	23	135	5-7½	San Francisco, Calif.
17—	Sherwood Brewer	27	175	5-8	Chicago, Ill.
23—	Herman Horn	25	164	6	Springfield, Mo.
25—	James Walls	22	176	5-11½	St. Louis, Mo.
10—	Francisco Herrera	19	210	6-2	Havana, Cuba
15—	Berto Nunez	21	150	5-6	Havana, Cuba
14—	Henry Baylis	25	185	5-10	Kansas City, Mo.
28—	Vic Thompson	20	175	5-11½	Chicago, Ill.
12—	Juan Armenteros	22	160	5-10½	Havana, Cuba
18—	Richard Phillips	22	180	5-8	Atlanta, Ga.
19—	Enrique Maroto	21	154	5-8	Havana, Cuba
11—	Robert Mitchell	21	166	6	West Palm Beach, Fla.
16—	William Bell	23	183	5-10	Des Moines, Iowa
20—	James Gilmore	22	194	6	Atlanta, Ga.
24—	Conrado Flores	23	160	5-6	Havana, Cuba
—	Ned Kennedy	22	180	6-2	New Orleans, La.

Fan mail received at 1410 No. 27th St. Kansas City 2, Kansas

### HOW TO LIVE ON \$15.00

#### A WEEK

Whiskey and Beer.....	\$ 8.80
Poker Games .....	1.00
Hot Tip on Horses.....	1.50
Groceries (On Credit)	
Rent (Pay Next Week)	
Coal (Borrow Neighbor's)	
Mid-Week Whiskey .....	.70
Cigars .....	20
Pinochle Club .....	.50
Snuff .....	.30
Dog Food .....	2.00
Wife's Beer .....	1.60
	<b>\$16.60</b>

This means going in debt so cut out the wife's beer.

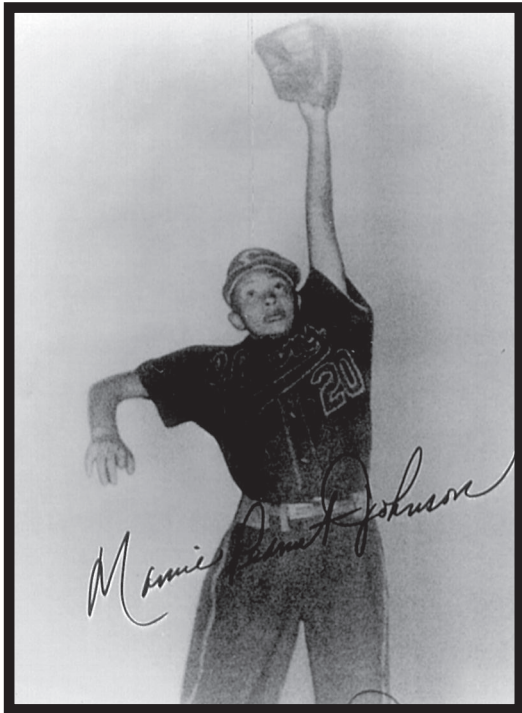
### INDIANAPOLIS CLOWNS TEAM ROSTER

28—	Frank Ensley	23	180	5-11	New York City
21—	Verdus Drake	31	135	5-7½	Havana, Cuba
20—	Miss Connie Morgan	19	135	5-4	Baltimore, Md.
27—	Ray Neil	29	172	5-9	Los Angeles, Calif.
63—	B. Wanamaker	—	170	5-10	Spartanburg, N.C.
37—	Henry Merchant	35	175	6	Cincinnati, Ohio
38—	M. Ford	—	170	5-10	New York
39—	B. Holder	—	160	5-8	New York
39—	Orlando Lugo	20	154	5-10	Havana, Cuba
24—	Art Hamilton	17	165	5-9	Jacksonville, Fla.
25—	Miss Mamie Peanuts				
	Johnson	22	120	5-3	Washington, D. C.
30—	Willie Gaines	22	187	6-1	Chicago, Ill.
23—	Ted Richardson	23	150	5-8	New York City
34—	Dionsio Amaro	20	168	5-8	Havana, Cuba
31—	Rufus McNeil	20	170	5-10½	New York City
23—	Howard Coffey	20	185	5-9	Greenville, S. C.
35—	Gordon Hopkins	20	160	5-9	New York City
39—	Richard Hariston	22	206	5-10½	Nashville, Tenn.

Fan mail received at Box 64 Tarrytown, N. Y.

Clowns Team Photo (1953) and Clowns Roster (1954)





Mamie "Peanut" Johnson

During her Negro American League career Syd Pollock used her primarily as a starting pitcher and after an inning or two she would come out of the game. Mamie did pitch several games against non-league competition. According to newspaper reports and Allan Pollock in his book Barnstorming to Heaven she did relatively well.

In numerous interviews, Mamie Johnson has related that overall her experiences in the "league" were generally positive. According to her "The men I played with were complete gentlemen."

After her Negro League career Mamie Johnson went into nursing. In her spare time she coached Little League baseball. Mamie and her husband resided in the Washington, D.C. area. She also conducted numerous speaking engagements and did personal appearances. Peanut Johnson did an exemplary job representing Negro League baseball all over the country. Mamie "Peanut" Johnson passed away on December 18, 2017.

Mamie Johnson and Connie Morgan

Indianapolis Clowns  
(1954)

Baltimore Afro-American  
05-04-54

## Femme players impress in Clowns' appearances

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. — Although Manager Oscar Charles- only one or two innings periodically.

lon has been limiting their ap- pearances to starting roles, in order to get them in top shape the two female stars of the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League, are showing themselves to be top-rate ball players.

The Misses Connie Morgan and Mamie Johnson have been doing short stints on the field, with Connie going only a couple of innings at second base in each game, and Mamie hurling

Both have given good accounts of themselves with Miss Morgan wielding a potent bat and playing flawless ball afield, and Miss Johnson making herself popular on the mound by holding the opposition scoreless in four appearances so far.

Both girls will be seen in action at College Park, Charleston, S.C. in an 8 p.m. game on Saturday nite, and a 3:30 contest Sunday afternoon, when the Funmakers tangle with their arch-rivals of the NATL circuit, the Kansas City Monarchs. Mamie is slated to face the '33 champions in one of these clashes.

The perennial rivals follow through with games at Rockingham, N.C. on the 10th; a game for the American Legion Post 501 at Macon, Ga., on the 11th; a return appearance by popular demand at Columbus, Ga., the 12th; at Hornet Stadium (Alabama State College), Montgomery, Ala., the 13th; and at Holt, Ala. on Friday nite.



# Indianapolis Clowns Sign Female Player

TARRYTOWN, N. Y. — Owner Syd Pollock of the Indianapolis Clowns, 3-time champions of the Negro American League, announces the sale of Miss Toni Stone to the Kansas City Monarchs for an undisclosed sum.

To replace her, Syd has signed 19 year old Miss Connie Morgan of Philadelphia to a contract estimated at \$10,000 per season. In addition, a second girl star has been signed in the person of Miss Mamie "Peanut" Johnson of Washington, D. C. whose specialty is pitching.

## NEW FEMALE STAR

Connie Morgan is slated to perform at second base for the Clowns, although she played with the North Philadelphia "Honey Drippers" for 5 seasons as a catcher. She also has played in several other positions at one time or another. While playing with the "Honey Drippers", she compiled a batting average of .338.

Connie was personally scouted by the Clown's Manager, Oscar Charleston, who claims she is one of the most sensational girl players he has ever seen, adding that her throws across the diamond rank on a par with many major leaguers.

## FEMALE PITCHER

Mamie Johnson, whose salary reportedly is set at \$5,000 for the season, will get a regular starting role on the mound with the Clown's pitching staff. She will also act as understudy for Connie Morgan at second base. It is said, she was the first girl to play at Long Branch High in baseball, football and basketball.

After the Clowns completed their season last year, Miss Johnson accompanied them on a month's barnstorming tour and pitched in several games. She averaged a strike out per inning against the Negro League Stars.



MISS CONNIE MORGAN



## Connie Morgan

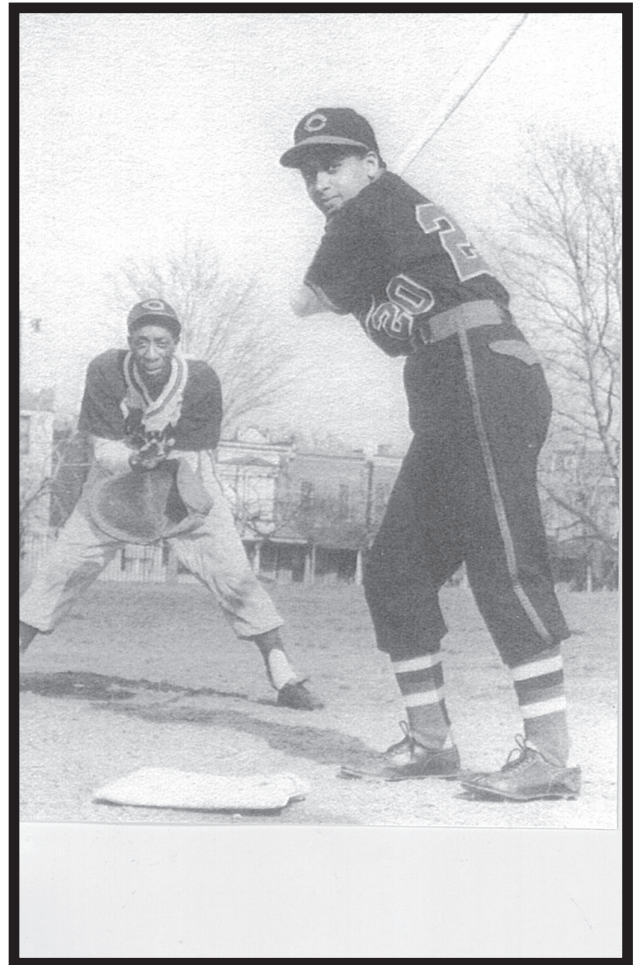
Indianapolis Clowns  
(1954)

Constance Enola “Connie” Morgan was born on October 17, 1935 in Philadelphia, PA. She stood five feet four inches tall and weighed 140 pounds during her playing career. Connie threw and batted right handed. As a young girl, she honed her athletic skills on the Philadelphia play grounds and eventually attended John Bartrum High School in Philadelphia where she excelled in sports, especially basketball.

Connie began her baseball career with the North Philadelphia Honey Drippers who were an all-girls semi-pro fast pitch softball team that played in a local recreational league. Reportedly over her five seasons (1949-1953) with the Honey Drippers she compiled a .368 career batting average.

After graduating from high school, Connie enrolled at the William Penn School of Business. Her goal was to graduate with her business degree and become a secretary. While attending William Penn, Connie read an article about Toni Stone in Ebony magazine and wrote a letter to Toni asking about the possibility of a tryout with the team. Toni gave the letter to Bunny Downs and recommended that the Clowns may want to follow-up with her. Connie was given a tryout in Baltimore in late 1953 when the Clowns were in town to play a post season barnstorming game against the Jackie Robinson Major League All Stars. Buster Haywood and Bunny Downs supervised the tryout. Connie felt that she had done a good job in the try-out. She displayed a good throwing arm and the attractive 18 year according to Syd Pollock would be a nice addition to the team. When she left the tryout, Buster Haywood told her that she had done well and that the Clowns would be getting back to her before the start of the 1954 season.

In 1954 Indianapolis Clowns owner Syd Pollock sold Toni Stone to the Kansas City Monarchs and Connie Morgan was signed by Pollock as Stone’s replacement. When Syd Pollock signed Connie Morgan, he referred to her as his “bonus beauty.”



**King Tut and Connie Morgan**  
Indianapolis Clowns  
(1954)

According to an article that appeared in the Cleveland Call and Post on May 13, 1954, Connie Morgan received a contract from the Clowns for an estimated \$ 10,000 a season. With Toni Stone playing for the Kansas City Monarchs and both Connie Morgan and Mamie Johnson playing for the Indianapolis Clowns, the drawing power and fan attendance went up dramatically when the Clowns played the Monarchs.

Connie’s transition to Negro League baseball was made significantly easier than it could have been because she knew the Clown’s manager Oscar Charleston who lived a short distance from





**Connie Morgan**  
Indianapolis Clowns  
(1954)



her in Philadelphia. According to Connie prior to the start of the 1954 season she worked out with Charleston who would become her mentor and worked with her on a regular basis to improve all of her basic baseball skills like hitting, fielding, sliding, running and the mental side of the game. According to Connie, Oscar was strict, demanded the best out of his players and instilled a winning attitude in the team.

Morgan shared playing time at second base with Gordon "Hoppy" Hopkins and Ray Neil for the Indianapolis Clowns during the 1954 season. Typically she would start the game and play an inning or two before giving way to Hopkins or Neil. Ms. Morgan knew her role with the team was as a "gate attraction" but according to fellow teammate Gordon Hopkins she played hard every opportunity she got.

In an article that appeared in the Baltimore Afro-American on May 25, 1954 the newspaper reported that Connie's season got off to a good start with what was termed a brilliant defensive play that "electrified" all 6,000 fans in attendance. The play occurred on May 16<sup>th</sup> with Connie playing second base in a game against the Birmingham Black Barons at Rickwood Field. According to the news report, Connie went deep in the hole to make a sensational stop which should have gone through for a base hit. She fielded the ball, flipped the ball to shortstop Bill Holder who stepped on second base and then threw to first base to complete the double play.

## 6,000 see Connie Morgan in sparkling performance

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Connie Morgan, Indianapolis Clowns' rookie \$10,000 female second baseman, electrified over 6,000 fans in the Negro American League's opening twin-bill at Rickwood Field, Sunday, when she went far to her right to make a sensational stop, flipped to shortstop Bill Holder and started a lightning doubleplay against the Birmingham Barons.

At bat she walked in two appearances.

Ted Richardson went all the way for the Funmakers in the opener and after a shaky start, emerged a 10-6 winner. The Barons scored 5 runs in the first inning, highlighted by Doc Dennis' grand slam homer, but the Clowns caught fire and as Richardson steadied, pounded Frank Thompson from the mound and then went to work on reliever Kelly Searcy.

### Disputed Play

In the nightcap the Clowns held an 8-5 lead in the final inning when a disputed play which resulted in a protest being lodged by the Clowns, opened

the gates for four Baron runs and a 9-8 win.

During heated argument over the call at third base, first baseman Speed Merchant and second sacker Ray Neil of the Clowns were given the heave ho.

The Clowns officially open the home season for the Kansas City Monarchs at Blues Stadium Sunday afternoon, May 30. On Monday, May 31, the Funmakers are scheduled for a 5:30 p.m. twin-bill double-header against the Monarchs at Busch Stadium, St. Louis, home of the Cardinals, and the Clowns' first appearance in a major league park this season.

Baltimore Afro-American  
05-25-54

According to the Howe News Bureau her “official” batting statistics for the 1954 Negro American League season with the Indianapolis Clowns were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1954	Indianapolis	49	45	13	8	1	0	0	1	1	.178	.200

She also had six (6) base-on-balls and struck out six (6) times in her forty-five (45) plate appearances. In the field Connie made six (6) errors and finished the 1954 season with a .885 fielding percentage.

Some of Connie’s fondest memories from her playing days with Indianapolis were as follows:

- Having her picture taken with Jackie Robinson on the day that she tried out for the Indianapolis Clowns in Baltimore (MD).
- The game she played at Connie Mack Stadium in her hometown of Philadelphia when she was the first female to take the field as a professional in Connie Mack Stadium history.
- In Laurel, Kansas she hit a long drive to left that should have gone for a homerun until the beginnings of a dust storm blew the ball foul as it cleared the fence.
- Another highlight that Connie used to relate was when she once tagged out Toni Stone sliding into second base. Regarding the play, Connie had the following to say: “Whew was that women upset! Hollering at the umpire. Hollering at me. Hollering at the world. That was Toni Stone’s style, all right – excitement and aggressiveness.”

When asked in a newspaper interview that she gave in 1995 about how she was treated by her teammates during her Negro League career, she was quoted as follows:

“The men treated me like a sister. They looked out for me, took care of me and never let anybody bother me. We were like a family.”

Connie Morgan was an excellent all-around athlete. During the off season, she played semi-pro basketball for the Philadelphia Rockettes for several seasons.

After her contract with the Indianapolis Clowns expired at the end of the 1954 season, Connie retired from baseball and returned to her hometown of Philadelphia where she finished her business degree at William Penn School of Business and went to work as a secretary. She first worked for the AFL-CIO and then a Philadelphia area furrier. In her later years she also worked as a school bus driver. Connie retired at the age of 40 when she was diagnosed with kidney disease. She spent her later years in her Federal Street row house.

Connie Morgan passed away on October 14, 1996 in Philadelphia. Connie was only 61 years old. She was laid to rest in Mount Lawn Cemetery in Sharon Hill (PA).

In 1995 Connie Morgan was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame for her contributions of helping break the “gender barrier” in professional baseball.



# Women in the Negro Southern League

## Georgia Mae Williams

Chattanooga Choo Chos  
(1945)

The first woman to play in the Negro Southern League was Georgia Mae Williams. She was a 5 foot 6 inches tall pitcher who played briefly for the Chattanooga Choo Chos during the 1945 season.

According to an article that appeared in the Chattanooga Times on July 18, 1945, Georgia Mae started the game for Chattanooga against the Little Rock Black Travelers. After striking out the first batter, she came out of the game. There is no record that she pitched in any other game for the Choo Chos or for any other professional team after her one brief appearance against the Black Travelers.

The 1945 Negro Southern League season was a landmark year for black baseball in the South because the Negro Southern League had disbanded after the 1936 season and 1945 was the first season in nine years that baseball fans could enjoy Negro Southern League games.

When James Cotton, who was the owner-manager of Chattanooga, signed Georgia Mae to pitch in the game against Little Rock his plan was that it would increase fan attendance at the game and he needed all the help he could get because the Choo Chos had finished the first half of the season in last place in the “league” standings with a disappointing record of 7-23 (.233). Bold marketing plans were not new to Cotton because his team played their home games at Engel Stadium which was owned and operated by Joe Engel who was notorious for his ingenious marketing schemes.



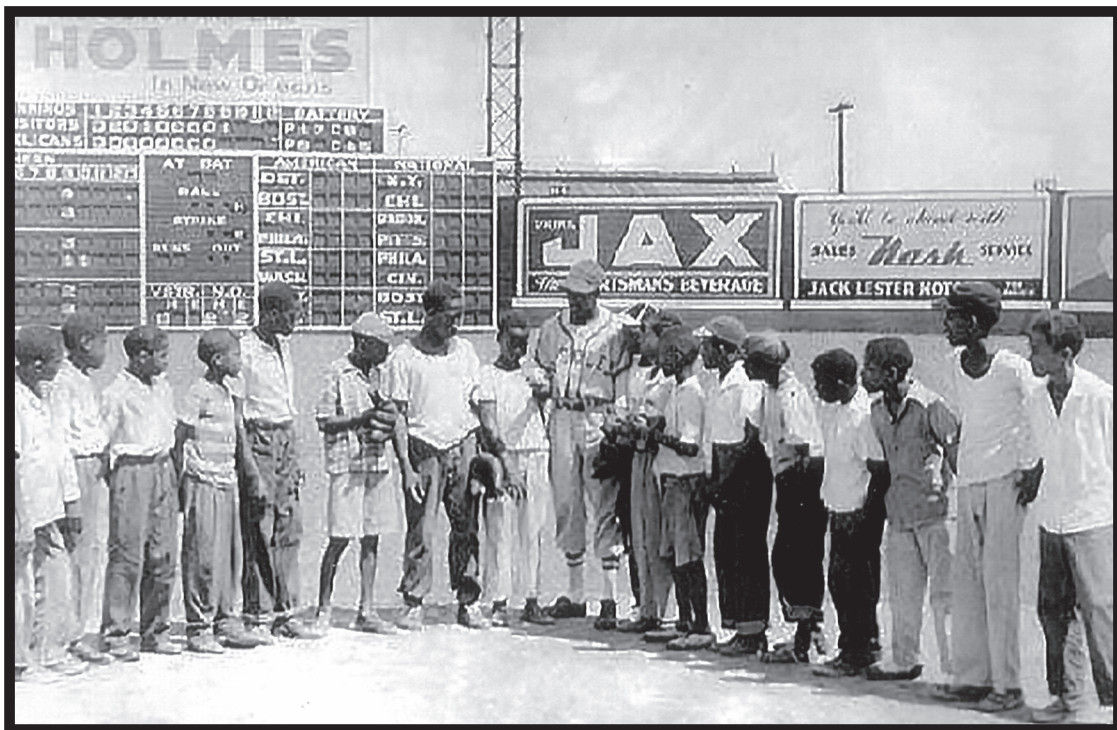
Engel Stadium  
Chattanooga, TN

## New Orleans Creoles – Youth Baseball Clinic

In 1947 Lucille Bland helped organize the first youth baseball camp for African American children. The event was held on June 28, 1947 at Pelican Stadium in New Orleans. It was reportedly a huge success.



New Orleans Creoles – Youth Baseball Camp (1947)



New Orleans Creoles – Youth Baseball Camp (1947)



## **Lucille Bland-Herbert**

New Orleans Creoles  
(1947-1949)

Lucille was an outstanding all-around athlete growing up in New Orleans (LA). In the mid 1940's she went to work at the Page Hotel in New Orleans as a cashier. The Page Hotel was owned by Allen Page who also owned the New Orleans Creoles baseball team. Lucille got her job at the hotel because she was a close personal friend with Allen Page's wife. When the New Orleans Creoles entered the Negro Southern League in 1947, Page hired Lucille as a third base coach/traveling secretary/player because of her athletic ability, her bubbly personality and her administrative skills.

Lucille was with the New Orleans Creoles from 1947 through the 1949 season. During the 1947 and 1948 seasons the Creoles played in the Negro Southern League. The New Orleans Creoles had a very successful season in 1947. They won the second half championship of the 1947 Negro Southern League season. Even though Allen Page was the treasurer of the Negro Southern League, the Creoles did not play in the "league" for the 1949 season. New Orleans played an independent-barnstorming schedule in 1949.

As the Creoles' third base coach Lucille was said to have put on quite a show when New Orleans was up to bat. Her confrontations with the umpires were said to have been quite a spectacle. Lucille's fiery demonstrations always kept the fans entertained. She was very popular with the players, fans and media. A picture of Lucille in her Creoles' uniform was even featured on the cover of the New Orleans Creoles program in 1947.

After her baseball career she went to Dillard University where she was a star basketball player. Lucille continued with her studies until she earned a masters degree from Pepperdine University. She spent her professional career in education in California but frequently returned to new Orleans where she also owned a home.



**Pelican Stadium**  
New Orleans, LA

New Orleans Creoles vs Nashville Cubs  
Broadside (1948)

Featuring Fabiola Wilson

Southern League Championship

# BASEBALL

## New Orleans Creoles

MEMBER NEGRO SOUTHERN LEAGUE

— VS —

CLUB: **LOUISVILLE CUBS**

DATE: **Tuesday Aug. 10th**

TIME: **Twilight Double Header 6<sup>P.M.</sup>**

PARK: **PARKWAY FIELD**

ADMISSION: ADULTS **\$1<sup>00</sup>** TAX PAID

ADMISSION: CHILDREN **50c** TAX PAID



FEATURING THE GREATEST  
ATTRACTION IN BASEBALL  
TODAY . . .

### Miss Fabiola Wilson

UTILITY OUTFIELDER AND  
COACH FOR THE CREOLES.

A Treat You Shouldn't Miss!

The Only Woman Player In

Baseball! . . . See Her!

— RESERVED SECTION FOR WHITE PATRONS —



## **Fabiola Wilson**

New Orleans Creoles  
(1948)

and

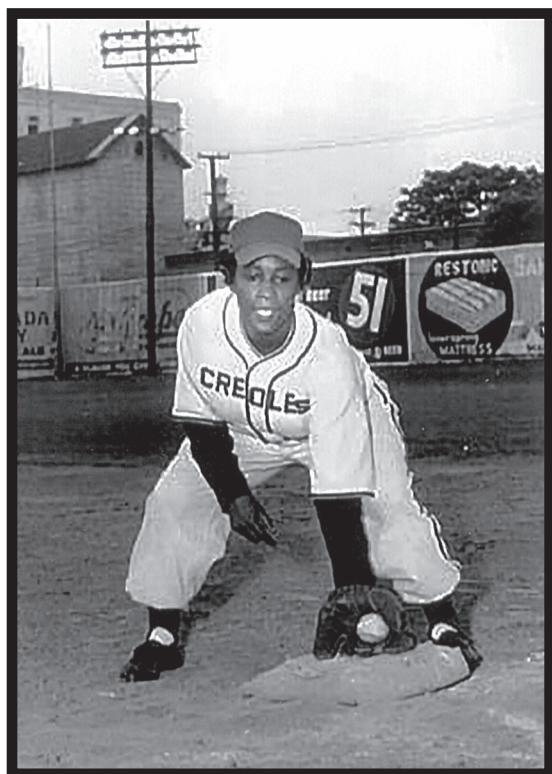
## **Gloria “Lovie” Dymond**

New Orleans Creoles  
(1948)

On July 4, 1948, Fabiola Wilson and Lovie Dymond each played three innings in a game for the New Orleans Creoles of the Negro Southern League. The Creoles opponent on that day was the Nashville Cubs. Wilson and Dymond were local high school graduates who Allen Page, the owner of the New Orleans Creoles, hired as gate attractions. Page billed them as “extra outfielders.” Wilson and Dymond dressed out for several games but their playing time was very limited and their tenure with the team was short lived.

According to an article that appeared in the Atlanta Dailey on July 15, 1948, both players were a tremendous “hit” with the crowd in attendance at Parkway Field in Louisville (KY).

Lucille Bland who coached third base for the Creoles related that Fabiola wasn’t really an athlete. She was the girlfriend of one of the Creoles players.



**Toni Stone**

New Orleans Creoles  
Negro Southern League  
(1949-1950)

## **Marcenia “Toni” Stone**

New Orleans Creoles  
(1949-1950)

Toni began her baseball career playing semi-pro ball for both women’s and men’s team in the St. Paul (MN) area.

In 1949 she was signed by Allen Page to play second base for his New Orleans Creoles of the Negro Southern League. Her salary was \$ 300 per month.

Toni went on to become the first woman to play in the Negro American League when she was signed by the Indianapolis Clowns in 1953. She opened the 1954 season with the Clowns before her contract was sold to the Kansas City Monarchs.

During her professional baseball career she also played for the Twin Cities Colored Giants, House of David and San Francisco Sea Lions.

## Players' Reaction to Female Players

Player reactions to females playing in the Negro American League and Negro Southern League were mixed to say the least. Most players and managers understood the necessity from a marketing perspective and respected the efforts that the female players put forward. However, to Negro League baseball players, the game was still a business and their lively hood. Looking at how several players reacted to Toni Stone who was the first female to play in the Negro American League gives us a good insight of how female players were perceived from a baseball point of view. Two of her former teammates and the Indianapolis Clowns' traveling secretary had the following to say about Toni Stone:

“ Toni was great for a female. She had lots of desire. Gave 100 percent. She was flashy and that was her strength for the Clowns.”

(Frank Ensley, outfield)

“ Toni hurt us and helped us. She took up a roster spot. She did put fans in the stands.”

(Ray Neil, second base)

“ This lady's putting money in our pockets. You men are all expendable. She ain't. Nuff said?”

(Bunny Downs, traveling secretary)

Others, however, like Buster Haywood, manager of the Indianapolis Clowns, were more vocal about not wanting female players in the Negro Leagues. When asked about his impression of Toni Stone, Buster had the following to say:

“ I disliked Toni Stone as a player. She couldn't play. She couldn't catch a damn pop-up and that's why Syd got rid of her. It upset me to no end to play her. She drew well for us one year and that was it. She couldn't field grounders to her right. She'd make an error, come in and slam her glove down in the dugout. It gave me headaches. I about had a heart attack.”

(Buster Haywood, manager)

The media was generally significantly kinder to Toni. A newspaper article that appeared in the Afro-American on February 28, 1953 did a pretty good job putting in perspective of how Toni was treated on the field of play.

“Toni will be the first to admit her diamond foes show her no mercy because of her sex. The pitchers throw just as hard and base runners slide into second with spikes just as high. But she likes the game and keeps coming back for more.”

The Washington Afro-American had the following to say about Toni's ability to play baseball in an article they published on July 7, 1953.

“In some quarters she is tabbed as the female Jackie Robinson. She's no weak sister at the plate. At the moment she is batting just under the .300 mark... She's every bit a fine girl, but when the going gets rough she'll rival any of the male players in toughness.”



## Women in the Negro Leagues – The Owners

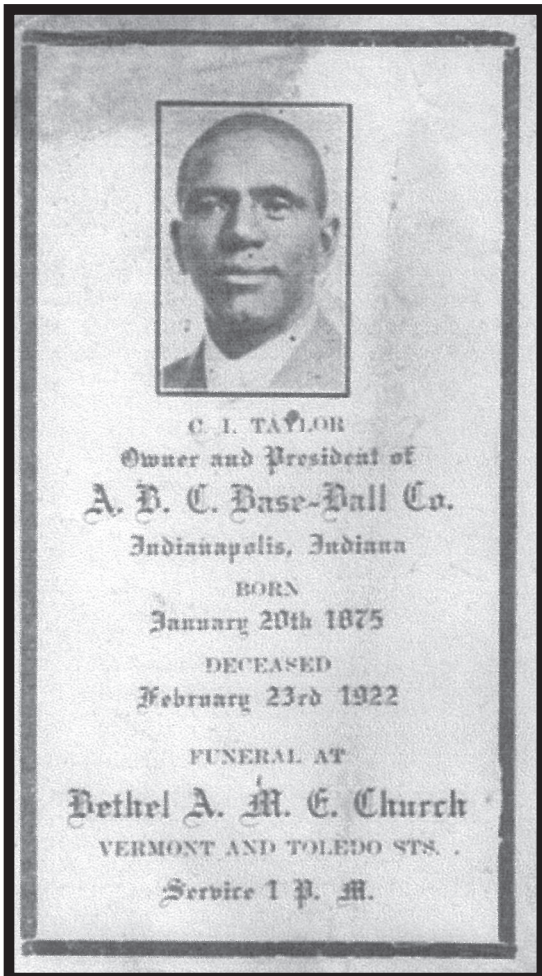
Over the history of Negro League baseball years at least five women have owned Negro League baseball teams. Olivia Taylor (Indianapolis ABCs) and Henryene Green (Baltimore Elite Giants) took over their teams when their husbands passed away. Effa Manley started the Newark Eagles with her husband Abe in 1936. Dr. Hilda Bolden-Shorter had the ownership of the Philadelphia Stars transferred to her when her father passed away in 1950. Lastly, Minnie Forbes acquired ownership of the Detroit Stars in 1956 from her uncle Ted Rasberry when questions were raised among Negro American League owners regarding a possible conflict of interest because Ted owned two teams in the “league.” Ted Rasberry also owned the Kansas City Monarchs.

### Olivia Taylor

Indianapolis ABC's  
(1922-1924)

#### Olivia Taylor becomes the First Woman to Own a Negro League Team

Charles Isham “C.I.” Taylor met Olivia Harris in Birmingham (AL) after he arrived in the city to form his own baseball team that he called the “Birmingham Giants.” According to newspaper reports, C.I. and Olivia were married around 1910. Even though she did not take an active role in her husband’s baseball teams while he was alive (Birmingham Giants, West Baden Sprudels and Indianapolis ABCs), Olivia was around professional baseball every day of her married life.



When her husband, Charles Isham “C.I.” Taylor, passed away suddenly at the age of 47 in 1922, Olivia Taylor became the owner of the Indianapolis ABC’s of the Negro National League. Day-to-day management of the team was taken over by his brother Ben who was the player-manager of the ABCs. When Olivia took over her husband’s team, she became the first female to own a Negro League team.

Olivia Taylor was faced with several significant problems almost immediately when she took over the team and these challenges continued until she folded the team in June of 1924.

1. Many players were hesitant to play for a woman and this only got worse.
2. Team owners especially those from the Eastern Colored League constantly raided her roster and as a result she lost most of her key players. The biggest loss that Olivia incurred was when Oscar Charleston was signed by Colonel Strothers of the Harrisburg Giants in 1924. Also gone from the roster of the ABCs by 1924 were star players: Henry Blackman (3B), Morten Clark (SS), Connie Day (2B), George Holoway (OF), Jim Jeffries (P), Dicta Johnson (P), Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (C/3B), George Shively (OF) and Ben Taylor (1B). Olivia Taylor lost virtually her entire starting roster from the time she took over the team until the time she folded the franchise.

C.I. Taylor  
Funeral Program

3. During her ownership of the team she was under constant criticism for reportedly under paying the players.
4. Olivia and her brother-in-law Ben Taylor did not seem to have a good working relationship from the very beginning of Olivia taking control of the Indianapolis ABCs. Speculation at the time was that Ben felt that he should have been given the team when C.I. passed away. Their relationship deteriorated and Ben's tenure with the ABCs ended in 1923 when he went to the Washington Potomacs as a co-owner and player for the team.
5. From the very beginning of her tenure as owner of the Indianapolis ABCs, Negro National League owners urged her to sell the team. They felt this was in the best interest of black baseball and the Negro National League in general. Other team owners felt that Olivia had ruined the great legacy that her husband had built. Olivia Taylor steadfastly refused to sell the team right up until the time the ABCs were ousted from the "league" and eventually disbanded.
6. Indianapolis also lost its ability to draw fans at the box office. Without C.I. Taylor at the helm of the club the dynamics of the team were significantly different. Lower numbers of fans in the stands meant less revenues and that resulted in financial problems for Olivia's team. To make matters even worse the start of the 1924 season proved disastrous when early season rain outs caused the cancellation of several key game dates.
7. Before the start of the 1924 season, Olivia Taylor and her team's manager, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, became embroiled in a bitter feud that ended up being played out in the national black press.

Ben Taylor got the Indianapolis ABCs off to a good start when the 1922 Negro National League season got underway. Behind the great hitting of Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.411), Oscar Charleston (.395), Ben Taylor (.371) and Edgar Wesley (.346), Indianapolis played excellent baseball the entire season. The pitching staff for Indianapolis included James Jeffries, Louis "Dicta" Johnson, Wayne Carr, Anthony Mahoney and Howard Ross.



**Indianapolis ABCs (1922)**

(Back row left to right – **Henry Blackman**, unknown, **Dizzy Dismukes**, **Oscar Charleston**, **Ben Taylor**, **Connie Day** and **Crush Holoway**. Seated left to right – **George Shively**, James Jeffries, Daltie Cooper, Namon Washington and George "Tubby" Dixon.)



According to the 1922 Negro National League standings that were published in the Kokomo Tribune on July 28<sup>th</sup>, the Indianapolis ABCs were leading the “league” with a record of 28-13 (.682). Researchers differ on the final won-loss records for the Indianapolis ABCs for the 1922 season. Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark credits Indianapolis with a record of 46-33 (.582) and in second place in the final Negro National League standings. The Seamheads research group headed by Gary Ashwill credit Indianapolis with a record of 61-41 (.596) and in second place in the final “league” standings. Both research groups agree that the Chicago American Giants won the Negro National League title for the 1922 season.

Without C.I. at the helm of the team and the formation of the Eastern Colored League in 1923, Eastern owners started raiding the ABCs’ roster. The most prominent losses to the ABCs were Oscar Charleston, Dizzy Dismukes, Crush Holoway, Raleigh “Biz” Mackey and Ben Taylor.

The 1923 Indianapolis ABCs were managed by William “Dizzy” Dismukes. The top hitters for the team during the season were Connie Day (.382), Gerald Williams (.338), Crush Holoway (.319), George Shively (.318) and Oscar Charleston (.311). The pitching staff for the ABCs during the 1923 season included Daltie Cooper, Charles Corbett, Dizzy Dismukes, James Jeffries and Ralph Moore.



Olivia Taylor

Indianapolis under the leadership of Dizzy Dismukes had a good season in 1923. They posted a final won-loss record of 45-34 (.570) in Negro National League play and in games against top level teams.

With Olivia in Birmingham, Alabama visiting family before the start of the 1924 season, William “Dizzy” Dismukes tried in vain to put together a competitive squad. This was a real challenge for Dismukes because he only had two players from his 1923 team return for the 1924 season. These players were Gerard Williams (SS) and Namon Williams (OF/2B). With a no-name roster, no real hitting or pitching the Indianapolis ABCs started the season with a dismal record of 6-21 (.222).

The team’s problems of losing players and outstanding debt culminated with the ABCs being ousted from the Negro National League in June of 1924. In a statement that appeared in all the leading black newspapers in the United States, the Board of Directors for the Negro National League cited the following reasons as to why they had pulled the Indianapolis ABCs’ franchise:

1. Supposedly the team did not have the funds to pay their players.
2. The Indianapolis ABCs and Olivia Taylor personally owed money to Rube Foster.
3. Also the team owed money to the Negro National League that was past due.

In short the Indianapolis ABCs had accumulated significant debts that the team couldn’t pay.

When Rube Foster was asked to comment on the matter, he went into great detail and publicly listed twelve (12) reasons as to why Indianapolis’ Negro National League franchise had been taken away from them. Foster was quoted as follows:

1. The owner Mrs. C.I. Taylor did not have the funds with which to continue in the “league.”

2. There was at the time of the disbanding of the club no finances to further care for the expenses of the same.
3. There still remains an outstanding debt to the "league" of \$ 1,556.56.
4. There is a personal obligation to Mr. A.R. Foster amounting to \$ 620.25.
5. There is a total indebtedness to the "league" directly and indirectly of \$ 2,176.81.
6. There is an unpaid board and room bill incurred while the club was in Chicago of \$275.26. The clubs uniforms are now being held for the same.
7. No funds with which to continue to the next place on the schedule.
8. No funds to meet the salaries of the ball players which were then due.
9. The inability of Mrs. Taylor to get together with men who contemplated buying the club by shaking them down for an enormous sum.
10. Inability of the owner and manager to put a club on the field which would even play a good brand of semi-professional ball, to say nothing of the brand demanded by Negro National League patrons.
11. Loss of confidence by the players in the owner after repeated failures to meet the payroll promptly and in full.
12. Club owners of the league realized that the continuance of the club in the "league" would prove costly and perhaps disastrous to all the clubs of the "league."

Mrs. Taylor took exception to the rationale used to expel her team from the "league." According to a statement made by Olivia Taylor to the national media, she asserted that her team's finances were in quite good shape and that Rube Foster had manipulated the Negro National League's financial statements to make the ABCs look bad. Mrs. Taylor claimed she had taken in \$ 25,000 and had the funds to cover all of her debts. She went on to charge Rube Foster and his friends with betraying their own race for the sake of greed.

The Indianapolis ABCs were replaced by the Memphis Red Sox. Officials from the Negro National League did allow Indianapolis to still be an "associate member" of the "league" and they could play exhibition games against "league" teams. The Indianapolis ABCs did try to play an independent schedule after they were booted out of the "league." Six games have been found for the team during this period. They lost to the Cermaks of Chicago and then took two games of a five game series against the Chicago Stars. The last box score found to this date for Olivia Taylor's team was on July 6<sup>th</sup> in Chicago versus the Chicago Stars who beat them by a score of 10-0. Before the end of the 1924 season Olivia disbanded the team that her husband had built.

While Olivia Taylor is generally regarded by many as not having been successful with her franchise for the two and a half years that she owned it, she did play an important role in Negro League baseball history. From this researcher's perspective, Olivia Taylor has been judged and remembered unfairly. While her 1924 team did fall apart and ended the season with a dismal record of 8-25-1 (.242), Olivia Taylor did have winning seasons in 1922 (46-33) and 1923 (45-34) and this was against mainly stiff Negro National League competition. Paul DeBano in his book The Indianapolis ABCs has the following to say about Olivia Taylor:

"Olivia emblemized the hard working spirit of black women at that time. She was smart and humble. I don't think Olivia really needed or expected the attention of the larger community, but apparently she had the respect of her peers."

After she got out of baseball, Olivia Taylor remained very active in the Indianapolis African American community. In 1925 she was elected president of the Indianapolis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Her influence became very apparent when in 1927 she headed up an effort that brought the national convention of the NAACP to Indianapolis. She was the first woman in the history of the NAACP to head up a national convention. On April 24, 1935 Olivia, like her late husband, passed away very unexpectedly. She was only 50 years old. Olivia was laid to rest next to her husband Charles Isham in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

As is engraved on her headstone she was without question a "Pioneer of Negro League Baseball."



## **Effa Manley**

Brooklyn Eagles  
(1935)  
and  
Newark Eagles  
(1936-1948)

Effa met her future husband Abe Manley at Yankee Stadium when both had come to see a World Series game between the New York Yankees and Chicago Cubs in September of 1932. The two were married on June 15, 1933 in New York City. Abe Manley had made his fortune in gambling as a “numbers broker” and as the owner of various other business interests. Effa Manley was a hat maker when the two first met. Even though they seemed to be from two different worlds, they both shared a love of baseball.

Effa and her husband Abe formed the Brooklyn Eagles prior to the start of the 1935 season. In 1936 they purchased the Newark Dodgers franchise and combined the best players from the two teams to form a new team that they called the “Newark Eagles.” They owned and operated the Newark Eagles until they sold the team in 1948.

With Abe’s various business interests occupying the majority of his time, Effa concentrated her efforts on the business management/operations side of the baseball team and ran the day-to-day operations of the club. She was the Newark Eagles’ general manager and primary decision maker for the team. Throughout her career she was an advocate for the players. Effa fought for better playing conditions, better means of travel (Newark had a \$ 15,000 Flexible Clipper bus with air conditioning), off season employment for the players and higher player salaries.

Over the fourteen (14) years that Abe and Effa Manley owned and operated the Newark Eagles they compiled a won-loss record of 366-277 (.569). They only had two losing seasons in their career with the Newark Eagles.



**Effa Manley**



**Newark Eagles (1939)**

(Back row left to right - **Monte Irvin**, Fred Wilson, Lennie Pearson, **George “Mule” Suttles**, Max Manning, Harry Cozart, Ed Stone, James Brown and Johnny Hayes. Seated left to right – **Leon Day**, Dick Seay, **Dick Lundy**, **Willie Wells**, Leon Ruffin, Jimmy “Lefty” Hill and Vernon Riddick.)



**Newark Eagles (1946)**

(Back row left to right – **Monte Irvin**, Johnny Davis, Lennie Pearson, Len Hooker, Max Manning, Cecil Cole, Rufus Lewis and **Larry Doby**. Middle row left to right – Leon Ruffin, Warren Peace, Jim Wilkes and Bobby “Cotton” Williams and Bat Boy. Front row left to right – Selton, Charles Parks, Clarence Israel, **Raleigh “Biz” Mackey**, Bob Harvey and **Leon Day**.)



The pinnacle of their team's history came in 1946 when they won the Negro National League championship and went on to defeat the Kansas City Monarchs to win the Negro League World Series. Leading the Newark Eagles in the hitting department were Leon Day (.431), Monte Irvin (.394), Larry Doby (.342), John Davis (.338), Pat Patterson (.322) and Leonard Pearson (.299). The 1946 Eagles led the Negro National League in hitting with a .300 team batting average. During "league" play the starting rotation for Newark was comprised of Max Manning (9-1), Leon Day (9-4) and Rufus Lewis (6-1).

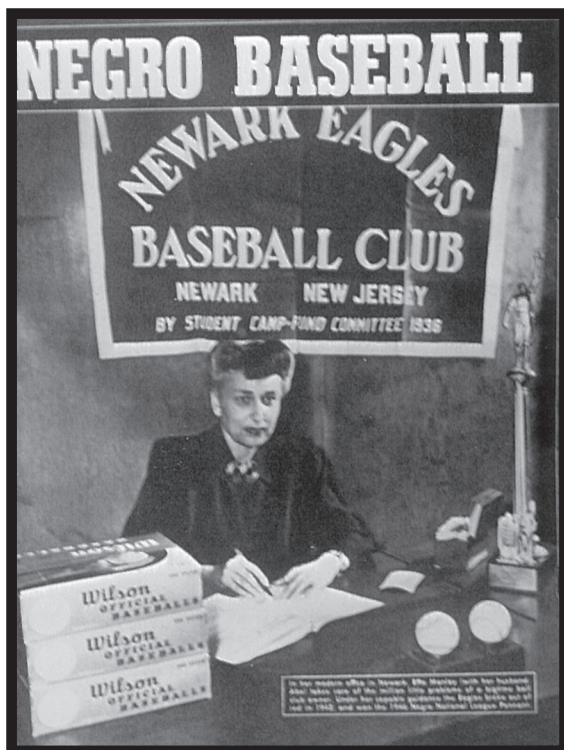
A year by year breakdown of the Brooklyn Eagles and Newark Eagles won-loss records in Negro National League play is as follows:

#### Brooklyn Eagles

Year	Games	Record	Pct	Place
1935	61	29-32	.475	5 <sup>th</sup>

#### Newark Eagles

Year	Games	Record	Pct	Place
1936	59	30-29	.508	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1937	40	26-14	.650	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1938	45	28-17	.622	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1939	49	29-20	.592	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1940	54	32-22	.593	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1941	34	19-15	.559	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1942	36	19-17	.528	4 <sup>th</sup>
1943	39	19-20	.487	4 <sup>th</sup>
1944	46	21-25	.457	5 <sup>th</sup>
1945	38	21-18	.538	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1946	63	47-16	.746	1 <sup>st</sup>
1947	83	46-37	.554	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1948	56	29-27	.518	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>366-277</b>	<b>.569</b>	<b>-</b>

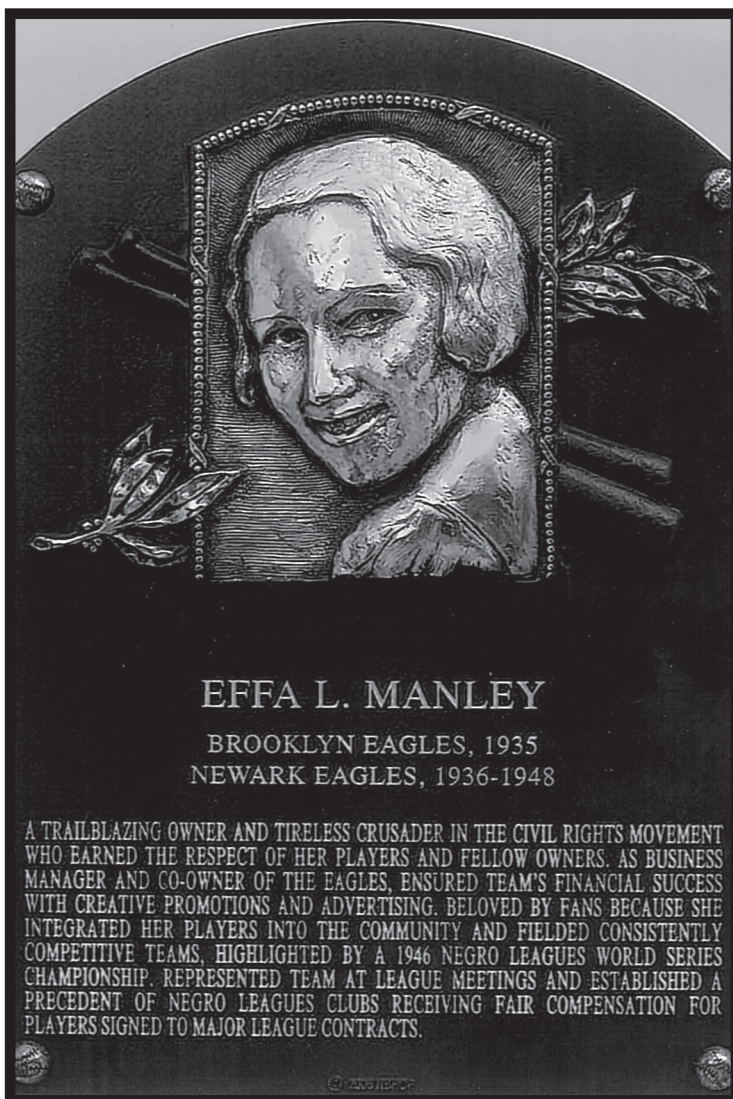


Effa Manley had a great eye for baseball talent. Over the years the Eagles featured six future members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown (Ray Dandridge, Leon Day, Larry Doby, Monte Irvin, Raleigh "Biz" Mackey and Willie Wells).

When Major League baseball teams started signing Negro League players, Effa Manley was a guiding force in an attempt to get Major League baseball to recognize the legitimacy of the Negro League teams and their owners. She also pushed for Major League teams to compensate Negro League team owners fairly for the players they signed from their teams. Manley was reasonably



**Effa Manley**  
Studio Photo – Age 17



**Effa Manley**  
Owner  
Newark Eagles

National Baseball  
Hall of Fame  
2006





Effa Manley

successful in her dealings with Major League baseball teams wanting to sign her top players. Reportedly she received \$ 20,000 from the Cleveland Indians for Larry Doby and \$ 5,000 from the New York Giants for the contract of Monte Irvin. Doby and Irvin were the Newark Eagles two biggest stars. However, when Don Newcombe was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, she received no compensation.

Prior to the start of the 1949 baseball season, the Negro National League was disbanded. Recognizing that Negro League baseball was in a state of rapid decline, Abe and Effa Manley decided to sell the Newark Eagles to a group of investors headed by Dr. W.H. Young from Memphis. In an interview with the Sporting News, the Manleys reported that they had lost \$ 22,000 in 1948 on the operation of the Newark Eagles. Dr. Young moved the team to Houston.

After she left baseball, Effa Manley was very active in the Civil Rights Movement and was a social activist. She was also the treasurer of the Newark chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Her interests in social issues came as no surprise because she had been active in social reform from the time she first moved to New York City and was a member of the Citizen's League for Fair Play. Two of the bigger projects that she was heavily involved in were the Blumstein Department Store boycott (1934) and the Anti-Lynching Day at Ruppert Field (1939).

When Effa and Abe owned the Newark Eagles, they played games to benefit Booker T. Washington Community Hospital which was influential in the training of black doctors and nurses. The black Elks Lodge also benefitted from numerous games sponsored by Effa and Abe to fund their community service programs.

Effa Manley passed away in Los Angeles (CA) on April 16, 1981 at the age of 81 from a heart attack. Effa was laid to rest in Culver City, California.

Effa Manley's contributions to Negro League baseball were "officially" recognized in 2006 when she became the first woman elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.



Effa Manley

## Vernon and Henryene Green

### Baltimore Elite Giants

# BALTIMORE ELITE GIANTS

VERNON GREEN, President and Owner    RICHARD D. POWELL, Business Manager  
HENRYENE P. GREEN, Secretary-Treasurer    JESSE WALKER, Manager

## In Memoriam



VERNON GREEN



HENRYENE P. GREEN  
Secretary-Treasurer



JESSE "BOSS" WALKER  
Manager

**Time of Games** — Sunday double headers will start at 2 P. M., night games at 8:30, night double headers at 8:30.

**Prices** — Box Seats \$1.30      Grandstand \$1.20  
Children 50 Cts.

**Advance Sale** — Tickets may be purchased at York Hotel, Colphay Street and Madison Avenue or at Bugle Field, Edison Highway and Federal Street.

**Rain Checks** — Rain checks become invalid after 4½ innings of either a single game or first game of a double-header. Valid rain checks may be used for admission to any future game.

**Pass-Out Checks** — No pass out checks will be issued.



## Henryene P. Green

Baltimore Elite Giants  
(1949-1950)

When Vernon Green passed away from heart related problems on May 28, 1949 his wife Henryene P. Green became the owner of the Baltimore Elite Giants. Henryene's first order of business was to promote Richard D. Powell from business manager to the general manager and vice-president of the team. She also signed Jesse "Hoss" Walker as the manager of the team. Besides being the owner of the team, Henryene also filled the role of secretary-treasurer of the Elite Giants.

The Baltimore Elite Giants went into the 1949 season with an excellent line-up and high expectations. Lomax Davis (.366), Henry Kimbro (.360), Leonard Pearson (.340), Ed Finney (.308) and Junior Gilliam (.301) led the team in hitting in 1949. With five starters hitting over .300 for the season, the Baltimore Elite Giants easily led the Negro American League in hitting with a .285 team batting average. They also led the "league" in hits with 909 and runs scored with 556 runs in 95 games. Bob Romby (13-7), Bill Byrd (12-3), Joe Black (11-7), Al "Apples" Wilmore (10-7), Leroy "Toots" Ferrell (8-2) and Leon Day (7-5) anchored the pitching staff for Baltimore during the 1949 Negro American League season. With the best hitting team and pitching staff in the "league," the Baltimore Elite Giants won the 1949 Negro American League championship with a record of 59-30 (.663).



**Baltimore Elite Giants (1949)**

### **Negro League World Champions**

(Standing left to right – **Joe Black**, Leroy "Toots" Ferrell, John Davidson, Lenny Pearson, **Bill Byrd**, Al Wilmore, Bob Romby, Johnny Hayes, **Junior Gilliam** and Jesse "Hoss" Walker. Seated left to right – Butch Davis, **Lester Lockett**, Sylvester Rogers, **Henry Kimbro**, Henry Bayliss, Frazier Robinson, Frank Russell, Thomas "Pee Wee" Butts and **Leon Day**.)



**Baltimore Elite Giants (1949)**  
Negro National League

(Standing left to right – Ed Finney, **Henry Kimbro**, Johnny Hayes, **Leon Day**, Thomas “Pee Wee” Butts, **Vic Harris**, Butch McCord, **James “Junior” Gilliam**, Bob Romby, Frazier Robinson, Al Wilmore, Jesse “Hoss” Walker, Butch Davis, **Bill Byrd**, Lennie Pearson, Leroy Ferrell and **Joe Black**)

The Baltimore Elite Giants returned their entire starting line-up from their 1949 championship team for the 1950 Negro American League season. Bob Romby (.380), Henry Kimbro (.370), Ed Finney (.333) and Fleming Reed (.299) led the team in hitting in 1950. The Elite Giants also led the “league” in hitting for the season with a .288 team batting average. Joe Black (8-3), Al Wilmore (6-4), John “Lefty” Coleman (5-2) and Leroy Ferrell (4-6) comprised the starting rotation for the Elite Giants in “league” games. In a move to save the Elite Giants money, Powell released Bill Byrd and Leon Day who were two of the team’s best pitchers in 1949. This move occurred two months into the season. The Elite Giants also suffered another significant loss in the second half of the season when Leonard Pearson left the team to sign a contract with Milwaukee of the American Association. The Baltimore Elite Giants finished the 1950 season in second place in the final Negro American League standings with a won-loss record of 24-20-1 (.545). Final standings for the 1950 season were difficult to determine because several teams including the Baltimore Elite Giants had not played the required number of “league” games during the regular season.

In April of 1951 Richard Powell sold the contracts of Junior Gilliam and Joe Black to the Brooklyn Dodgers for \$ 10,000 (\$ 5,000 for each player). Right after the sale of Black and Gilliam had been completed, William “Soo” Bridgeforth bought the Baltimore Elite Giants team for what was reported of just under \$ 10,000. The sale of the team was not a difficult decision for Henryene to make because she had reportedly lost \$ 18,000 during the 1950 season. Ironically, Henryene Green made more money selling two of her top players to the Brooklyn Dodgers than she did for selling the entire team.

An interesting side note to Henryene Green’s career in Negro League baseball was that she ran the Elite Giants with the assistance of Richard Powell who she married in 1951.



## Hilda Bolden-Shorter

Philadelphia Stars  
(1950-1952)

When her father, Ed Bolden, passed away in September of 1950, Dr. Hilda Bolden-Shorter became the owner of the Philadelphia Stars. She ran the team through the 1952 Negro American League season when she disbanded the team.

Having a full time medical practice, Dr. Bolden-Shorter did not have the time or expertise to manage a baseball team on a day-to-day basis. The first thing she did when she took over the team was to retain Negro League great Oscar Charleston to manage the club. Charleston had managed the Philadelphia Stars since 1948. Dr. Bolden-Shorter did get more involved when it came to the financial side of the business. She reviewed contracts, bookings and other negotiations involving finances.

The Philadelphia Stars played in the Eastern Division of the Negro American League during the 1951 season. Unfortunately for Charleston, the Stars were the worst hitting team in the “league” with a .218 team batting average. Ed Martin was the ace of the pitching staff in 1951. The Stars ended the year with a disappointing record of 18-28 (.391) in “league” play and were in third place in the final standings.



**Philadelphia Stars**  
(Dr. Hilda Bolden-Shorter – back row fifth from right)

In 1952 Oscar Charleston returned to the Stars to manage them in what would be their final season. The Stars were led by the hitting of James Jones (.342) and the pitching of Wilmer Harris (9-5) during the 1952 season. Unfortunately for Philadelphia fans the Stars suffered through another losing season. They ended the season in last place in the final Negro American League standings with a dismal record of 22-38 (.367).

Besides being the owner of a Negro League baseball team, Dr. Bolden-Shorter was also a well-known pediatrician in Philadelphia (PA). After she disbanded the team, Hilda had more time to dedicate to her medical practice and other personal interests.

## Minnie Forbes

Detroit Stars  
(1956-1957)

Before she became the owner of the Detroit Stars, Minnie Forbes was a ball player. From 1947 to 1949 she played for Cook's Brown Dolls who were based out of Grand Rapids (MI). Minnie had hoped to try-out for the Grand Rapids Chicks of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) but no African Americans were ever allowed to play in the "league."

After her playing days were over, Minnie went to work for her uncle Ted Rasberry who owned the Kansas City Monarchs and Detroit Stars of the Negro American League. Minnie's role in working for Ted was administrative in nature. She did everything from keeping the books to selling tickets at the ball park.

Prior to the start of the 1956 season there were questions raised among Negro American League owners as to whether or not there was a conflict of interest with Ted Rasberry owning two teams in the "league." To solve the problem Ted transferred his ownership of the Detroit Stars to Minnie Forbes and she became the owner of record for the team.

With the change in ownership, Ed Steele was retained as the manager of the team. The 1956 Detroit Stars fielded a solid hitting team and excellent pitching staff. Detroit finished the 1956 season with a won-loss record of 52-16 (.765) and won the Negro American League title.



It appears that the Detroit Stars struggled during the 1957 season. According to Negro American League standings that were published in the Afro American on September 9, 1957 the Detroit Stars had a record of 16-25 (.390) and were in fourth place in the "league." After the regular season the Detroit Stars were sold to Reece "Goose" Tatum and the name of the team was changed to the Detroit Clowns for the 1958 season. It is unclear whether or not Ted Rasberry had any ownership in the 1958 Detroit team.

After Tatum took over the team, Minnie Forbes went back to working for Uncle Ted. Besides her administrative duties, Minnie actually played two innings at third base for the Kansas City Monarchs. She never got up to bat. Technically she was the fourth female to play in the Negro American League.

Minnie Forbes currently resides in Grand Rapids (MI) and is the last living owner of a Negro League baseball team.

**Edith Rasberry, Ted Rasberry and Minnie Forbes**  
Forbes Takes Control of the Detroit Stars

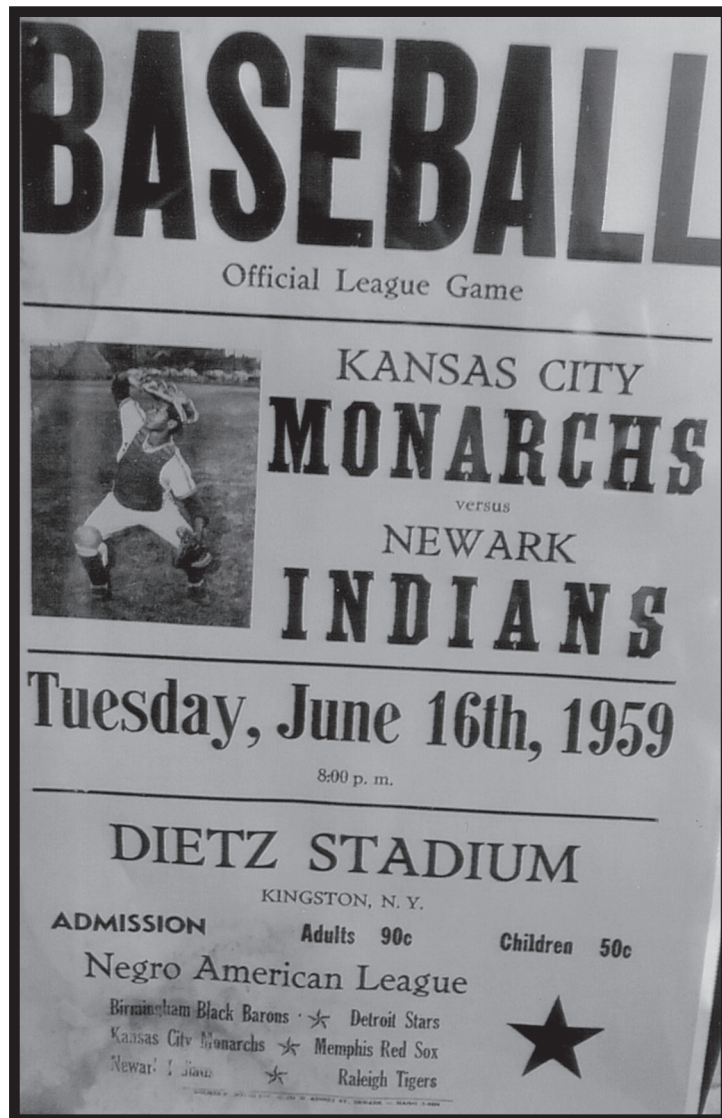


## Vernadine Johnson

Newark Indians  
(1959)

According to research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark, Vernadine Johnson was the owner of the Newark Indians of the Negro American League in 1959. The Newark Indians only played the one season in the Negro American League. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Afro American on May 9<sup>th</sup> the team was supposed to play a twenty-five (25) game "league" schedule. We know for certainty that the Newark Indians did not complete their 1959 Negro American League schedule. By August newspapers make no mention of a Newark team in the "league." The final Negro American League standings for the 1959 season have yet to be located but newspapers report that the Birmingham Black Barons were recognized as the "league" champions. The Newark Indians appear to have only been a mediocre team at best. Reportedly they played at least some of their "league" games at Ruppert Stadium (Newark) and Memorial Stadium (New Brunswick, NJ).

Research seems to indicate that the Newark Indians only played a minimal number of games during the 1959 season. Former Detroit Stars outfielder/catcher, Larry Le Grande, remembers playing the Indians in Newark. In an interview with Dr. Layton Revel of the Center for Negro League Baseball Research he related three things. First the Indians had former Major League pitcher, Newark resident and fan favorite Joe Black on the mound. Secondly there was a huge crowd on hand to see Black pitch. Lastly the Stars easily defeated the Indians. Without any question more research needs to be conducted on Johnson and her team.



Newark Indians  
vs  
Kansas City Monarchs

Negro American League

Broadside Poster

Game Played at

Dietz Stadium

Kingston, NY

June 16, 1959

## Female Players on Major Independent Teams

In 1917 the Havana Stars who were an independent team based out of Chicago (IL) announced that they had signed Pearl Barrett to play first base for the team. According to an article that appeared in the Chicago Defender on May 12<sup>th</sup> Ms. Barrett was the only African American female playing professional baseball in the United States. Dr. Joseph Plummer was the president of the team. Heading up the line-up for the Stars was their team captain Stanley Beckwith who was the brother of black baseball superstar John Beckwith. Currently little is known of the team and their play during the 1917 season.



**Pearl Barrett**  
Havana Stars

Chicago Defender  
05-12-17

During the 1920's through the 1930's the Cleveland Colored Giants, or the Cleveland Giants as they were sometimes referred to, were one of the top semi-professional black baseball clubs in the Great Lakes area. One of the strategies to attract fans to the ball park that the owners of the Cleveland Colored Giants used was to hire female players.

One of the first female players signed by the Cleveland Colored Giants was a "white" first baseman by the name of Lizzie Murphy who at the time was considered the "Queen of Baseball." Murphy appeared in a game that the Cleveland Colored Giants played against Rocky Point (RI).

Lizzie Murphy was considered the top female baseball player of her day. She was born on April 13, 1894 in Warren, Rhode Island. Lizzie started playing competitive baseball as a teenager with the Warren Silk Hats, Warren Baseball Club and Warren Shoe Company. During the early part of her career she was a pitcher but transitioned to first base because she was an excellent hitter. Her professional baseball career started in 1918 and went through 1935. Some of the top teams for which she played during her professional baseball career were the Providence Independents, Ed Carr's All Stars (Boston, MA), American League All Stars, National League All Stars, Bloomer Girls and Lizzie Murphy's All Stars. Lizzie Murphy is credited with being one of the first female professional ball players.



**Lizzie Murphy**



## GIRL TO PLAY 2D BASE

Cleveland Giants to Start Isabella Baxter in Game Tomorrow.

Isabella Baxter, one of the few girls in professional baseball, will be at second base for the Cleveland Colored Giants when they oppose Henny Mason's All-Stars in the first game of a double header at the Stadium tomorrow afternoon at 1:30.

She will play three innings of the game. Men teammates declare she is a fine fielder and batter. The second game of the twin bill will send Mason's nine against the Cleveland A. B. C.s.

**Plain Dealer**

Cleveland, OH

08-27-32

During the 1932 season Isabella Baxter played second base for the Cleveland Colored Giants. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Cleveland (Ohio) newspaper, Plain Dealer, her teammates considered her a good fielder and hitter. The game reported in the Plain Dealer on August 27, 1932 against Henry Mason's All-Stars called for her to play three innings for the Colored Giants

Going into the 1933 baseball season, the Cleveland Colored Giants continued to play an independent schedule as well as playing in a small local league by the name of the "Cleveland Colored Baseball League." The 1933 Cleveland Colored Giants played their home games at Hooper Field and were managed by W.E. Hanley.

One of the starters and star attractions of the Cleveland Giants was a young African American lady by the name of Isabelle Baxter. She was the team's starting second baseman. They played the opening game of their season on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Hooper Field and defeated the Canton Clowns by a score of 14-8. In the game Isabelle handled five fielding chances and collected one hit at the plate. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Chicago Defender on June 17<sup>th</sup> on the two outs that she made, Isabelle hit the ball hard to the outfield on both of those occasions.

## Girl Ball Player Aids Cleveland 9

CLEVELAND, Ohio, June 1.—Isabelle Baxter, clever little girl second baseman, playing this season with the famous Cleveland Giants, featured in the opening game of the season at Hooper field at Cleveland when the Giants easily trounced the strong Canton Clowns, 14 to 8. Miss Baxter took five fielding chances, her

only hobble coming when, after a spectacular stop back of first base, she pulled Tom Ponder off the bat with a wide throw. At the bat she hit safely once and drove two hard-hit balls to the outfield. Walter Ponder showed the way to his teammates with three homers over the right field wall, two of them coming with the bases loaded. He narrowly missed his fourth when the ball hit the top of the wall and he was held to a single. Earnshaw pitched strong ball for the Giants, fanning nine men.

Manager W. E. Hanley of the Giants is anxious to book out-of-town games. The club is available for next Sunday. Write him at 843 E. 125th St., above city.

**Chicago Defender**

06-17-33

In July of 1933 the Cleveland Giants team was sold and came under new management. The new owners plan was to have the Cleveland Giants play in the Negro National League. Before starting the Negro National League schedule in August, the roster of the Giants team was totally overhauled. In a deal that was worked out with Gus Greenlee, who was the president of the Negro National League, the Cleveland Giants were able to pick up players from the defunct Akron Tyrites and Columbus Blue Birds. Both Akron and Columbus had played in the Negro National League earlier in the season but had disbanded.

Current research has not found evidence of Isabelle Baxter playing with the Cleveland Giants team that played in the Negro National League.

The Cleveland Giants entered the Negro National League with Bingo DeMoss as their manager and played their home games at Luna Park in Cleveland. They went on to have a disappointing season in the Negro National League. In "league" games and games against top level competition, they went 2-14 (.125) and finished in last place in the final Negro National League standings.

**St. Louis Bronchos**  
(1910)

This photograph that appeared in the Freeman newspaper on March 16, 1910 is the oldest known photograph of a predominately “black” professional women’s baseball team. The word predominately is used because as one can see in the picture the team included four (4) male ball players.



**THE ST. LOUIS BLACK BRONCHO BASEBALL CLUB.**

**St. Louis Bronchos**  
**Women’s Professional Baseball Team**

**Freeman**  
04-16-10



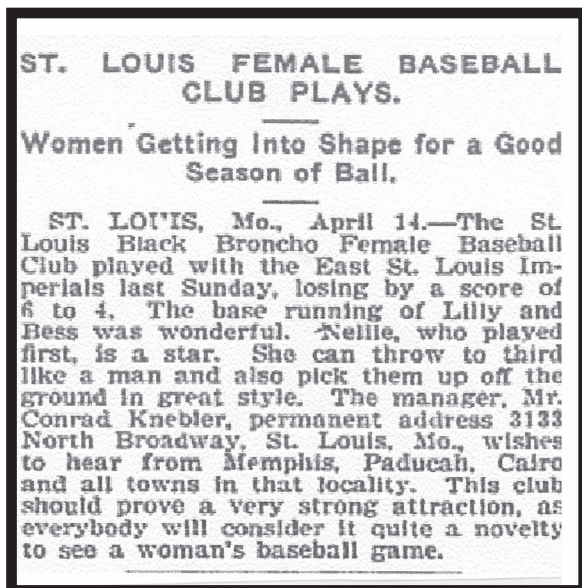
## African American Women's Teams

From the very beginnings of professional baseball in the United States, it was very common for white women's professional baseball teams to travel around the country playing a barnstorming schedule. A large number of these early teams were named after Amelia Bloomer who was a pioneer activist in women's rights. Some of the best known of these early white women's traveling teams were Boston Bloomer Girls, Chicago Bloomers, New York Bloomer Girls, Philadelphia Bobbies, Star Bloomers and the Western Bloomer Girls. The Bloomer Girls baseball teams would often enhance their roster by adding two or three male players dressed up like women. Reportedly Major League greats Rogers Hornsby and Smokey Joe Wood played for the Bloomer Girls during their professional careers.

One of the facts that has been lost or forgotten in history is that African American women often also had their own teams. During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were numerous all female clubs all around the country. Colleges, universities, small towns, large towns, clubs, companies, social organizations and individuals sponsored organized female baseball teams. In Philadelphia (PA) there were the Bobbies, the Strikers, the Neenahs, the Red Stockings, the Blue Stockings and the Dolly Vardens.

Based on current research the oldest African American female baseball team is the Dolly Vardens of Philadelphia. The history of the Dolly Vardens of Philadelphia can be very confusing because it appears that several different teams played using the name the "Dolly Vardens" over the years. A Dolly Vardens team appears in newspaper articles as early as 1867 and they were identified as a professional team, but it is unclear if they were a black or white team. Baseball historians and researchers even disagree as to whether they were a male or female team. If the Dolly Vardens were indeed a professional team with salaried players in 1867 this would make them the oldest professional team in the history of professional baseball. Currently, the Cincinnati Red Stockings who have an extremely well documented history are considered the oldest professional baseball team. The Cincinnati Red Stockings were considered a professional team with paid players in 1869.

What we do know for sure is that an African American Dolly Varden female professional baseball team is documented by the New York Times in 1883. The New York Times article lists Miss Ella Harris as the team captain. The article also identifies a majority of the team's roster. These players were as follows: Sallie Johnstone (1B), Molly Johnstone (2B), Lizzie Waters (3B), Ella Waters (C), Agnes Hollingsworth (OF) and Rhonda Scholl (OF). This Dolly Vardens team was most likely organized by John Lang who was a barber in Chester (PA) and wanted to try his hand at owning and managing a professional baseball team. From newspaper accounts it appears this team played for several seasons.



Another of the oldest documented all African American women's professional teams was the Black Broncos. They were an independent team that barnstormed through the Midwest and South. According to an advertisement that appeared in The Plain Dealer in 1911 the team was referred to as "a novelty attraction but also a strong team of well-behaved girls." In May of 1911 the team had a reported record of 6-5 (.545).

**Freeman**  
Indianapolis, IN  
04-16-10



**Breakers Hotel**  
Palm Beach, FL



**Royal Poinciana Hotel**  
Palm Beach, FL



From 1898 through the 1931 winter league season, the Royal Poinciana Hotel and Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida sponsored African American baseball teams who played games against each other for the entertainment of the hotel guests. According to an article that appeared in the Palm Beach Daily News, the first recorded game between these two teams occurred on January 27, 1898. Over the years the competition between the Royal Poinciana and Breakers became known as the Florida Hotel League or the Coconut League. Besides the Royal Poinciana and Breakers Hotel, the Hotel Royal Palm in Miami Beach, Florida would also occasionally field a team to compete against the Palm Beach hotel teams. To improve the quality of their teams, the resort hotels recruited professional black ball players. The players were also given jobs as bellmen, bus boys, cooks, waiters and other service related jobs. That way the players worked in the hotel during the week and played baseball on the weekends. Over the course of the winter the two hotels would play 12 to 14 games against each other. In addition to baseball, the two resorts also competed against each other in boxing matches, track and field events and a wide range of other contests (pie eating contests, three-legged races, cake walks, etc.).

With the immense popularity of men's baseball, the management of the Royal Poinciana Hotel decided to field an all-female team in 1913. It is still unclear who this all-female team played and how many years the Royal Poinciana fielded an all-female team.



**Royal Poinciana Hotel (1913)  
All-Girls Team "The Giants"**

Starting in the 1920's it was also not uncommon for black YWCA programs all over the country to sponsor "all female" baseball and softball teams. YWCA programs gave women the opportunity to play a wide range of competitive sports including baseball, basketball, softball and swimming.



**YWCA – All Girls Baseball Team**  
(c. 1920's)



**Wheatley Settlement House All-Girls Team (1925)**  
Minneapolis, MN



## Segregation and Women in Baseball

Even with Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in Major League baseball in 1947, no African American female player was ever allowed to play in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Many top African American female players like Toni Stone, Minnie Forbes and Mamie “Peanut” Johnson wanted to play in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League but were not even given tryouts. It appears that some African American players were occasionally given tryouts. Elizabeth Jackson and Marie Mazier both of South Bend (IN) were given tryouts at Playland Park (South Bend) in 1951 but were not signed by the South Bend Blue Sox.

It is an extremely interesting historical and social question as to how the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) could play eight (8) seasons after the Major Leagues were integrated and not address the issue of integration in their own league. With an estimated 700 women playing in the AAGPBL it seems statistically impossible that the “league” could not find at least one African American girl who had the skills to compete on the field.

Barbara Gregovich in her book Women at Play: The Story of Women in Baseball presents an interesting perspective on the relationship of racism and sexism in relationship to women of color playing professional baseball in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. Ms. Gregovich insinuates that African American women and other women of color did not meet the standards that the “league” officials and owners had established for female ball players. “League” officials and owners felt that women needed make-up to be beautiful. Players were required to wear lipstick, nail polish, have their hair styled and play in short skirts. It is Gregovch’s opinion that social mores of the late 1940’s and early 1950’s excluded women of color from meeting the standards of “feminine beauty” as defined by the All American Girls Professional Baseball League.

The standards set by “league” officials and owners, didn’t however, exclude “white” Latin players like Isabel Alvarez, Ysora Castillo, Mirtha Marrero and Migalia Perez from playing in the “league.”



**Cuban Players**  
(left to right)

**Isabel Alvarez  
Mickey Perez  
Ysora Castillo  
Mirtha Marrero**

In conclusion not only did racism work against female African American ball players but they were also subject to sexism discrimination.

The issue of integration was finally seriously discussed at length at the November 1951 board meeting for the “league.” In relationship to the subject of integration, the consensus of opinion from those attending the meeting and documented in the “official” Board Meeting Minutes from the November 14, 1951 meeting read as follows:

“The consensus of the group seemed to be against the idea of colored players, unless they would show promise of exceptional ability, that in the event a club did hire one of them, that none of the clubs would make her feel welcome.”



**Minnie Forbes and Rita Jones**

**Cook's Brown Dolls**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
(1947-1949)

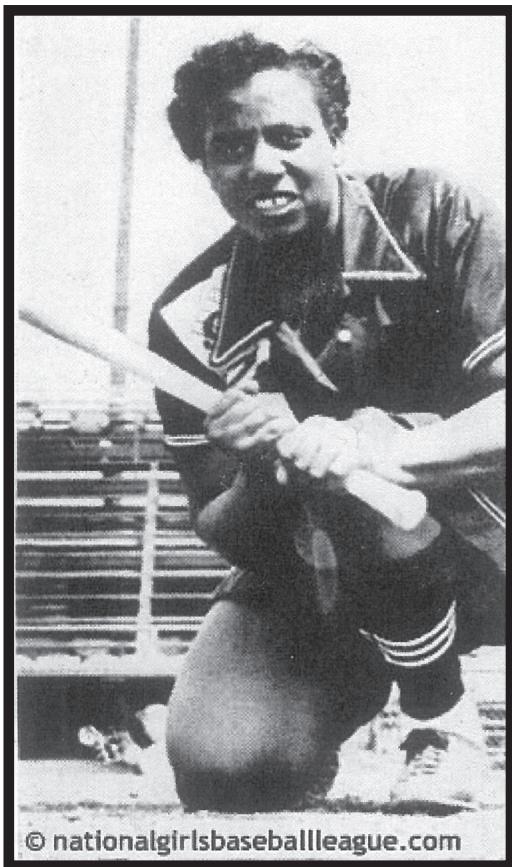


Again how could there not be at least one African American female player who would “show promise.”

### Why Not a “League” of Their Own

In addition with all the popularity and length of tenure of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, it seems very interesting that the creation of a “league” comprised of black female teams was not started or even seriously discussed within the African American community. Baseball had always been extremely popular in the African American community and had a proven success rate as a business. For decades black baseball had been tremendously successful all across the United States. In addition, black baseball was the fourth largest business base after gambling, insurance and hair care products in black America.

But in the final analysis African American women baseball players were excluded from professional baseball and left with only softball



**Betty Chapman**  
Admiral Music Maids  
(1951)

The National Girls Softball League for fast pitch softball teams was founded in 1944 in Chicago (IL). The league changed its name to the National Girls Baseball League (NGBL) in 1946. Despite the name, the league still played fast pitch softball. Over its eleven (11) seasons of league history the teams that played in the league were concentrated in Chicago and the surrounding cities of Forest Park and Des Plaines. Some of the teams that played in the league were the Admiral Music Maids, Brach’s Kandy Kids, Chicago All Stars, Chicago Bluebirds, Chicago Jewels, Rauland Radar Queens and the Parichy Bloomer Girls. To bring legitimacy to the league, big name retired male athletes from the sporting world were hired. Football great Harold “Red” Grange was named the president of the league. Former Major League ball players Woody English and Buck Weaver were hired as managers.

The National Girls Baseball League (NGBL) was in direct competition with the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. To compete for the best athletes, the NGBL offered higher salaries and an easier road schedule. The NGBL was relatively successful and at its height averaged 500,000 fans each season during the late 1940’s.

Betty Chapman became the first female African American professional softball player in 1951 when she signed with the Admiral Music Maids. She was an outfielder for the team. Over the four remaining years of the league very few other female African American players were signed.

In addition during the 1940’s and 1950’s when the “girls” baseball was in its heyday with the All-American Girls professional Baseball league (1943-1954) and the National Girls Baseball League of Chicago there were numerous independent all African American women’s teams that played around the country. Minnie Forbes, who owned the Detroit Stars, played for Cook’s Brown Dolls based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1947 to 1949.



**Boarding House**  
New Orleans, LA



**Boarding House**  
Birmingham, AL



## **Supportive Roles of Women in the Negro Leagues**

### **Women Team Officers in Black Baseball**

Over the years several women held “officer” positions for black baseball teams. Some of these women, the teams for which they were affiliated and the years they served are as follows: Leona Dixon (Louisville Black Caps) (1929), Mae Williams (Brooklyn Eagles) (1935), Clara Jones (Boston ABC’s) (1935), Billie Harden (Atlanta Black Crackers) (1938-1948), Delores M. Hall (Brooklyn Brown Dodgers) (1945), Helen Jackson (Homestead Grays) (1949), Helen L. Snowden (Brooklyn Brown Dodgers) (1945-1946), Eleanor M. Speckenbach (Brooklyn Brown Dodgers) (1945-1946), Ethel Posey (Homestead Grays) (1947 and 1949), Maude Semler (New York Black Yankees) (1947-1948), Eva Cartman (Memphis Red Sox) (1954), Joyce Hamman (Indianapolis Clowns) (1959-1960) and Gertrude Willis-Geddes (New Orleans Black Pelicans) (1930).

### **Women Run Boarding Houses**

Throughout the history of Negro baseball, travelling and playing on the road was always an issue. If you were an African American you were always limited by where you could eat or stay.

In most cities hotel accommodations were either not of a very high standard or just not available. The solution that many team owners turned to was having their players stay at boarding houses. Boarding houses were generally private homes where you could rent a clean room and get home cooked food at very reasonable prices. The vast majority of these boarding houses were run by women. A good place to sleep and home cooked meals made life on the road a lot easier for the ball players.

### **Women’s Auxiliary Groups**

Women often played a significant role in helping support the ball players and the team. Many teams had women’s auxiliary groups. These auxiliary groups planned fund raisers, prepared meals for the players so they could eat at the ball park, conducted local marketing efforts to bring the fans out to the game, hosted special events and parties, etc.



**San Antonio Black Sox – Women’s Club**  
San Antonio, TX  
(c. mid 1950’s)



**Female Fans at Martin Stadium**  
Memphis, TN



**Female Fans at Martin Stadium in Memphis (TN)**



## **Role of Player's Wives**

Many of the ball players were married and when they were out of town on long road trips, it was up to the wife who was home alone to take care of the family by herself. She had to pay the bills, take care of the kids, keep up the house and resolve any problems that came up.

If the player and his family lived in the same city for which he played, things were a bit easier because the player got to see his family more often and the wife could even attend the ball games to watch her husband play. However, most players never lived in the same city for which they played and with the difficulties involved in moving from one city to another relocating every time a player changed teams was not realistic.

Knowing that his family was being taken care of took a lot of mental strain and worry off the individual players. Trying to play a game and having to worry about what was happening at home could have a significant negative impact on the player's ability to be able to perform on the field.



**Jackie Robinson Jr. and Rachel Robinson**  
(Son and Wife of Jackie Robinson)

## **Women in the Grandstands**

One fact that is frequently overlooked is that from the time that baseball was first played, women have been fans of the game. Women came to the ball park to support their boy friend, husband, relative or just because they enjoyed the game of baseball. As the owner of a team fans coming to the ball park were essential to financially support the club. Without money coming in there was no team. Look at any picture of a Negro League baseball game and you will see that a significant portion of the crowd is female. Without the financial support from the tickets that these women bought to get in the game, many teams would not have been able to financially survive.

## Historical Timeline

### Women and Negro League Baseball

- 1883 The Dolly Vardens who are an all-female African American team play on the East Coast.
- 1913 The Royal Poinciana Hotel fields an all-girl team to entertain the resort's guests.
- 1917 Pearl Barrett plays first base for the Havana Stars.
- 1922 Olivia Taylor takes over ownership of the Indianapolis ABCs when her husband Charles Isham "C.I." Taylor dies unexpectedly. Olivia owned the ABCs from 1922-1924.
- 1933 Isabelle Baxter is the featured player for the Cleveland Giants.
- 1935 Clara Jones is the President of the Boston ABCs and brings "big time" black baseball to Boston.
- 1935 Abe and Effa Manley form the Brooklyn Eagles.
- 1936 Abe and Effa Manley buy the Newark Dodgers and combine the players from their two teams to form the Newark Eagles. They owned the Eagles from 1936 to 1948.
- 1945 Georgia Mae Williams pitches for the Chattanooga Choo Chos of the Negro Southern League.
- 1947 Lucille Bland-Herbert signs with the New Orleans Creoles of the Negro Southern League as a coach, traveling secretary and occasional player. Lucille is with the Creoles from 1947-1949.
- 1948 Fabiola Wilson and Lovie Dymond debut for the New Orleans Creoles.
- 1949 Henryene P. Green becomes the owner of the Baltimore Elite Giants when her husband Vernon Green dies. Henryene owns the Elite Giants for the 1949-1950 season.
- 1949 Toni Stone is signed by Allen Page of the New Orleans Creoles (Negro Southern League). She plays with New Orleans from 1949-1952.
- 1950 Dr. Hilda Bolden-Shorter becomes the owner of the Philadelphia Stars when her father Ed Bolden passes away.
- 1951 Betty Chapman becomes the first African American female professional softball player.
- 1953 Toni Stone signs with the Indianapolis Clowns and becomes the first female to play in the Negro American League.
- 1953 Mamie "Peanut" Johnson signs with the Indianapolis Clowns and pitches for them in a post season barnstorming tour against the Negro League All Stars. Mamie also played for the Clowns during the 1954 season.
- 1954 The Indianapolis Clowns sell Toni Stone's contract to the Kansas City Monarchs.
- 1954 Connie Morgan is signed by the Indianapolis Clowns to replace Toni Stone.
- 1956 Minnie Forbes becomes the owner of the Detroit Stars. She owns the team for two years.
- 2006 Effa Manley becomes the first woman to be elected to National Baseball Hall of Fame.
- 2014 Mo'ne Davis makes Little League history when she became the first girl to win a post season game and pitch a shutout in Little League World Series history.



## Conclusion

The research presented in this “Forgotten Heroes” book without a doubt shows that women played an important role in the history of black baseball in America. This area of study has had very little attention over the years and without question more research needs to be done.

University professor and noted Negro League historian/author Dr. Leslie Heaphy from Kent State University has also provided us with a couple of new leads regarding women playing black baseball. They are as follows:

- In 1908 Mrs. Sarah Booker and C.L. Mayberry from Springfield (OH) reportedly were trying to form a colored baseball league.
- In 1935 Boston area newspapers identified Clara Jones as the president of the Boston ABCs. Jones managed a top level team that took on the best black and white teams on the East Coast. She is recognized as having brought high quality black baseball to Boston.

Research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark has identified eleven (11) women who served as an officer for a Negro League team. Included in this group are Delores M. Harden (wife of John Harden who owned the Atlanta Black Crackers), Ethel Posey (wife of Cumberland Posey who owned the Homestead Grays) and Maude Semler (wife of “Soldier Boy” Semler who owned the New York Black Yankees). Additional in-depth research needs to be conducted on all these women who served as officers for major black baseball teams.

From this researcher’s perspective we would like to know quite a bit more about who Doris Arline Jackson and Deseria “Boo Boo” Robinson were and more about their sports careers. They made news in a national publication but for some reason no one knows anything about them.

There is no question that as more research is done the list of women who contributed to Negro League baseball will continue to grow longer with more names and teams to be uncovered.



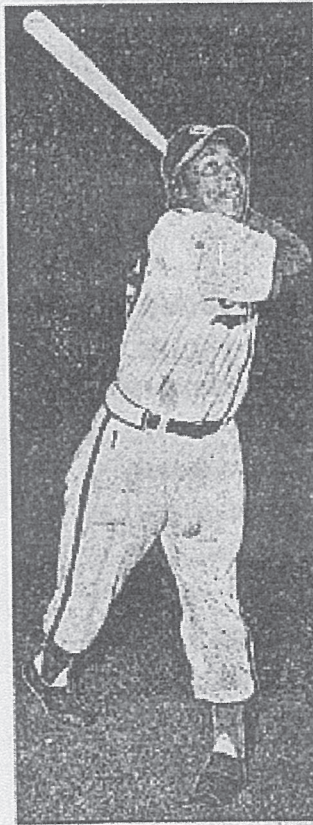
**St. Clair's Village**  
(c. 1960's)



## Indianapolis Clowns

Toni Stone – Mamie Johnson – Connie Morgan

# FEMININE STARS



**Miss TONI STONE**

**Monarchs**

This is Miss Stone's second season in the Negro American League. Is famous as the first girl to play in the League and was sold during the winter months by the Indianapolis Clowns to the Kansas City Monarchs. Her usual position is second base.

Age 23, born St. Paul, Minn.

Height 5'-7½".

Weight 146 lbs.

Bats, Throws: Right Handed.

Miss Stone is a graduate of Roosevelt High School, in St. Paul, Minn. At the age of 15 Miss Stone deserted the Girls Highlex Softball Club in her home town for a regular position with a men's team and is a seasoned performer in professional baseball.



**MISS MAMIE ("Peanut") JOHNSON**

**Clowns**

Peanuts for her size and weight pound for pound throws as hard as many men pitchers. She not only pitches but is used in utility roles.

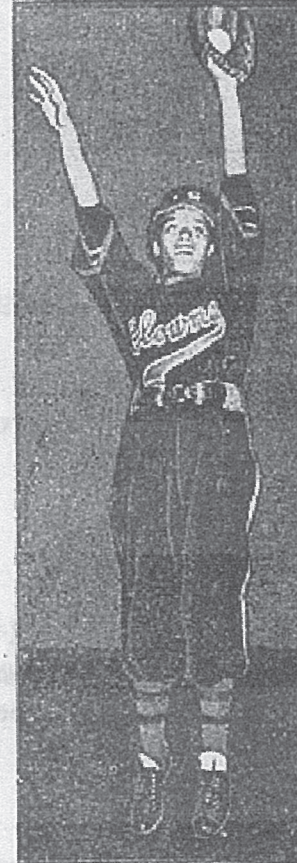
Age 22, born Sept. 27, 1932, at Long Branch, N. J., resides in Washington, D. C.

Height 5'-4".

Weight 120 lbs.

Bats, Throws: Right Handed.

Miss Johnson attended Long Branch High School, also N. Y. U. where she studied Medics and Post Engineering. In high school she played sports with boys, even football. Her hobbies are: Reading, Bowling and Skating.



**MISS CONNIE MORGAN**

**Clowns**

Miss Connie Morgan, Clown's new second base female sensation.

Age 19, born Oct. 17, 1935, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Height 5'-4".

Weight 140 lbs.

Bats, Throws: Right Handed.

Attended John Bartram High School; William Penn Business School.

Played last 5 years with the North Philadelphia Honey Drippers (all-girl baseball team) as catcher, infielder and outfielder. Batted .368 for past five seasons. She plays basketball during the winter months. Signed for a two-year contract with the Indianapolis Clowns.



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Effa Manley  
Newark Eagles