

California Winter League (1943-44)

During the 1943-44 California Winter League season there were only two teams in the league. They were the Baltimore Elite Giants (black team) and Pirrone's All Stars (white team). At the end of the season, the Baltimore Elite Giants were crowned as the California Winter League champions with an unofficial record of 7-5-1 (.583). The shortened season appears to have resulted from Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, Major League Baseball Commissioner, ordering all Major League players to stop playing in California just as the season was getting underway.

Several other teams played an independent schedule in California during the winter of 1943-44. Two of the teams were black (Kansas City Royals and Negro All Stars) and four of the teams were white (Lane's Major Leaguers, Feistner's Major All Stars, Western Pipe & Steel Boilermakers and the Long Beach All Stars).

The following statistics were compiled by William F. McNeil in his book The California Winter League (McFarland Publishing).

Batting Leaders

(Players with at least 20 at bats)

Player	Team	Games	AB	Hits	2B	3B	HR	BA
Sammy Bankhead	Baltimore	9	30	13	2	1	0	.433
Jerry Priddy	Pirrone's A.S.	6	20	8	2	1	0	.400
Buck Leonard	Baltimore	10	31	11	0	2	0	.355
Bubba Hyde	Baltimore	9	34	12	3	1	0	.353
Cool Pappa Bell	Baltimore	10	31	10	3	0	0	.323
Larry Barton	Pirrone's A.S.	8	23	7	2	0	0	.304
George Metkovich	Pirrone's A.S.	8	27	8	4	1	0	.296
Andy Pafko	Pirrone's A.S.	6	21	6	2	0	0	.287
Peanuts Lowery	Pirrone's A.S.	8	29	8	3	2	0	.276
Jesse Walker	Baltimore	9	26	7	0	0	0	.269
Charlie English	Pirrone's A.S.	8	31	8	1	0	0	.258
Howard Easterling	Baltimore	9	29	7	1	2	0	.241
Clyde Spearman	Baltimore	9	30	6	1	0	0	.200
Ted Radcliffe	Baltimore	7	22	4	0	0	0	.182

Pitching Leaders

Player	Team	Complete			Lost	Innings	SO	BB
		Games	Games	Won				
Satchel Paige	Baltimore	5	1	3	1	30	35	10
Terris McDuffie	Baltimore	3	2	2	0	21	11	3
Porter Moss	Baltimore	3	2	1	0	17	-	-
Newt Kimball	Pirrone's A.S.	3	0	1	0	17	-	-
Bill Seinsoth	Pirrone's A.S.	2	1	1	0	7	-	-
Booker McDaniel	Baltimore	3	1	1	1	11	4	6
Walter Olson	Pirrone's A.S.	3	3	1	2	25	-	-
John Markham	Baltimore	2	1	0	1	7	-	-
Buck Newsom	Pirrone's A.S.	2	0	0	1	7	6	5
Red Kress	Pirrone's A.S.	3	1	0	2	9	-	-

Porter Moss (Baltimore) pitched a shut out during the shortened season.