

Forgotten Heroes:

James “Jimmie” Lyons



by

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Jimmie Lyons Joins Chicago American Giants

In 1919 Jimmie Lyons played briefly for the Chicago American Giants. Over his eighteen year career as a professional baseball player, Jimmie Lyons is most often associated with the St. Louis Giants and Chicago American Giants



Chicago American Giants (1919)

(Back row left to right - Bingo De Moss, Leroy Grant, **Dave Brown**, **Rube Foster**, **Oscar Charleston** and Dick Whitworth. Middle row left to right – **Dave Malarcher**, Bobby Williams, unidentified and John Reese. Front row left to right – Unidentified, **Jimmie Lyons**, Bill Francis, unidentified and unidentified.)

James Henry "Jimmie" Lyons was born on November 6, 1892 (some researchers list his birth date as October 10, 1889) in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his early youth Jimmie's family moved to Chicago, Illinois.

Lyons stood 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed approximately 175 pounds during his playing career. Reportedly (researchers disagree) he threw left handed and batted from the left hand side of the plate. He started his professional career out as a pitcher with the Chicago Union Giants in 1909. In 1911 Felix Wallace, the team captain of the St. Louis Giants, converted Jimmie into a full time outfielder so the team could get his bat in the line-up every day and utilize his speed in the outfield. This move gave Lyons the opportunity to become one of the best ball players of his day.

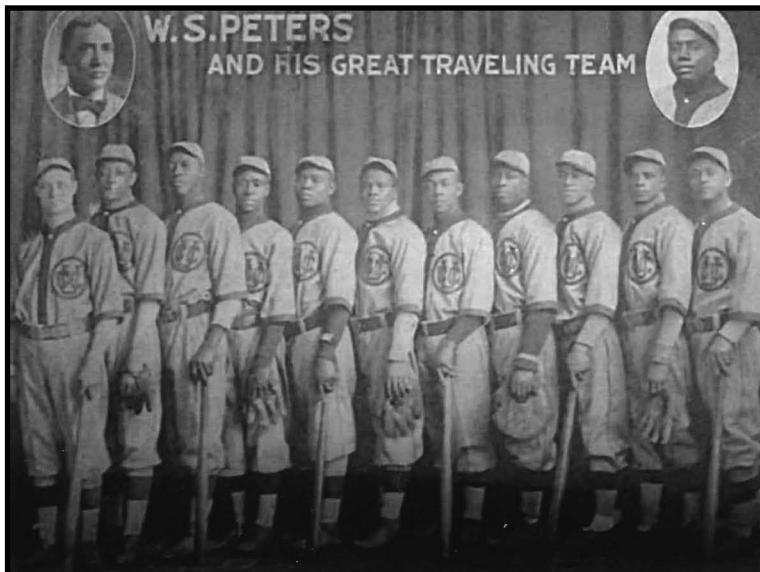
Jimmie was an excellent hitter who had a career batting average of .310 in Negro League play and in games against top level competition. In addition he had blazing speed that aided him both offensively and defensively. His ability to bunt, especially the drag bunt, increased his opportunity of getting on base. Once on base he was always a threat to steal with his aggressive style of running the bases. Besides his great speed, Jimmie was also able to get especially long leads off the base. He rarely ever got picked off or thrown out on a steal attempt. To make it even more difficult for opposing infielders, Lyons always kept his spikes sharpened and was a threat to cut up an opposing infielder who got in his way. Baseball historians agree that Jimmie Lyons was one of the fastest players to ever put on a baseball uniform. In the history of Negro League baseball, only James "Cool Pappa" Bell may have been faster than Jimmie Lyons. This conjecture comes from players who played both with and against both Bell and Lyons.

Over his professional career which lasted eighteen (18) years from 1909 to 1925 with another brief appearance in 1932, Jimmie Lyons played for at least twenty-three (23) different teams. The St. Louis Giants and Chicago American Giants are the two teams with which Lyons is most often associated. In the tradition of black baseball Jimmie always seemed to go where the money was.

Early Baseball Career

Jimmie honed his baseball skills on the play grounds and sandlots of Chicago. When he was young he also played for several organized teams in Chicago youth leagues and church leagues.

Besides having natural athletic ability, it also helped Jimmie to have an older brother who was an outstanding ball player. Benjamin Lester "Bennie" Lyons who was born on April 1, 1882 also played professional baseball like his younger brother. Bennie played professionally for the Chicago Union Giants, West Baden Sprudels, French Lick Plutos and Indianapolis ABCs.



Chicago Union Giants

Negro League Career

Jimmie Lyons began his professional baseball career at the age of 17 when he and his brother Bennie were signed by W.S. Peters who was the owner of the Chicago Union Giants. Peter's Union Giants played an extensive independent schedule and also played in the Lakeshore League. The teams that made up the Lakeshore League in 1909 included the Chicago Union Giants, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Menasha, Milwaukee, Port Washington, Racine and Sheboygan. All of the teams in the Lakeshore League were "white" with the exception of the Chicago Union Giants.

Chicago Union Giants (1909)

Notes of the Unions.

The 'Unions have been on the road since July 20, playing through Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, playing 36 games and losing only eight.

James Shawler, captain of the team, has had quiet a success with the Unions this year. He has won 22 straight games on the road, something no other colored team from Chicago has ever done before.

Jimmie Lyons, the 17 year old southpaw, is an Indianapolis boy whom Captain Shawler picked up and has made a wonderful little pitcher out of him. He has not lost but three games this season.

Frank Young, an Indianapolis boy, has had a great season at second base, playing fine ball.

"Puglie" Hutchinson has set Wisconsin on fire this season playing shortstop. The people in this part of the country claim him the fastest they ever saw.

Wesley Pryor has played good ball all season. He is a steady old boy on the third sack.

Happy Harry Hyde is holding down first base in fine style and hitting well. Washington is the same old standby.

Washington is the same old standby behind the bat. He has caught 115 games out of 117. Going some, eh?

Lytle is pitching great ball for the team. He has had quite a number of shut-outs this season.

James Shawier is playing great ball. Although being captain it is no handicap on his playing. He has had only one error this season and is hitting the ball like a demon.

John Reeves is playing great ball for Captain Shawler in the right garden, getting everything that comes his way. Reeves is the best base runner on the team and has not been thrown out at second base this season by any catcher. John's batting is partly responsible for the Giants' success.

Freeman

09-04-09

Chicago Union Giants

Freeman
09-25-09

CHICAGO UNION GIANTS		CLOSE SUCCESSFUL TRIP		
lose Only Ten Games of Fifty-Six Played—Several Hard-Fought Contests in String of Victories.				
CHICAGO, Ill.—The Chicago Union Giants arrived home Saturday, September 1, after finishing a successful nine weeks' trip, which ended at Richmond, Ill. They were met and congratulated by Manager S. Peter and their successful trip. They left Chicago July 20 and returned September 11, making a total of fifty-eight days of playing and 56 games, winning 19. The boys were proud when they were told that they had made the best winning trip that was ever made by the Chicago Union. Captain James Shawler is proud of his team. Following are the scores for the season:				
July 16: Union Giants 6-0 vs 0-0 1-2 1-1		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 5-0 vs 1-0 2-0 0-6 14-13 0				
Lytle and Washington.				
July 16: Racine 0-0 vs 0-0 1-8 8-0 1-2 1-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 1-0 vs 1-2 1-0 0-2 0-7 10-0				
Snow and Washington.				
July 18: Rodgers Park 0-0 vs 0-0 1-2 2-0 6-7 6		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-1 0-6 1-6 3				
Johnson and Washington.				
July 19: Felix Colts 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-1 1-2 2		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-2 2-3 0				
Lytle and Washington.				
July 20, Huntley, Ill.: Justiny 0-0 vs 0-0 2-0 0-1 5-7 2		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 3-0 vs 0-0 4-0 0-3 0-8 11-23 0				
Lytle and Washington.				
July 21, Merriw, Ill.: Deringo 0-0 vs 0-0 1-0 0-0 0-1 3 0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-2 0-1 1-0 0-4 16 0				
B. Lyons and Washington.				
July 22, Maquoketa, Iowa: Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-1 3-2 3		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-1 7 3				
J. Lyons and Washington.				
July 23: Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-3 5-7 1		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-2 0-2 0-0 0-8 3 3				
Lyde and Washington.				
July 23, Buxton, Iowa: Buxton 3-0 vs 0-1 0-1 0-1 0-1 6-5		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-1 4 3				
B. Lyons and Washington.				
July 26: Buxton 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 8-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-1 0-1 8-0				
J. Lyons and Washington.				
July 27, Atiba, Iowa: Atiba 2-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 2-10 0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 2-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-6 3				
Lytle and Washington.				
July 28, Hiawatha, Iowa: Hiteman 0-0 vs 0-0 0-1 0-0 0-1 1 1		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-4 11 2				
J. Lyons and Washington.				
July 29, Washington, Iowa: Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-2 2 3		R. H. E.		
Washington 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-2 2 3				
Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-2 2 3				
B. Lyons and Washington.				
July 30, Portage, Wis.: Portage 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-6 5		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-4 12-16 3				
Lytle and Washington.				
July 31: Portage 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 1-0 0-1 0-3 0				
B. Lyons and Washington.				
August 1, Merrill, Wis.: Merrill 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-2 4 0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-3 6 1				
J. Lyons and Washington.				
August 2: Merrill 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-1 4 1		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-2 vs 0-1 0-0 0-0 0-2 4 0				
B. Lyons and Washington.				
August 3, Antigo, Wis.: Antigo 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-2 12-14 3		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-6 5 1				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 4: Antigo 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-7 3 3		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 1-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-6 16-18 0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 5, Eau Claire, Wis.: Eau Claire 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
J. Lyons and Washington.				
August 6, Chippewa Falls, Wis.: Chippewa Falls 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 7, Oshkosh, Wis.: Oshkosh 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 8: Oshkosh 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 9: Milwaukee, Wis.: Milwaukee 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
B. Lyons and Washington.				
August 11, Edgerton, Wis.: Edgerton 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
J. Lyons and Washington.				
Janesville 0-0 vs 0-1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 12, Harvard, Ill.: Harvard 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lyde and Washington.				
August 13, Edgerton, Wis.: Edgerton 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Prior and Washington.				
August 14, Rockford, Ill.: Rockford 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 15, Sheboygan, Wis.: Sheboygan 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
J. Lyons and Gordon.				
August 16, Janesville, Wis.: Janesville 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 17, Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
J. Lyons and Washington.				
August 18, Elkhorn, Wis.: Elkhorn 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lyde and Washington.				
August 19, Sharon, Wis.: Sharon 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-1 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 20, Rockford, Ill.: Rockford 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 21, Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
J. Lyons and Washington.				
August 22, Menasha, Wis.: Menasha 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 23, Sheboygan, Wis.: Sheboygan 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 24, Algoma, Wis.: Algoma 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
J. Lyons and Washington.				
August 25, Ripon, Wis.: Ripon 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 26, Oshkosh, Wis.: Oshkosh 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 27, Watertown, Wis.: Watertown 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 28, Evansville, Wis.: Evansville 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 29, Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
J. Lyons and Washington.				
August 30, Merrill, Wis.: Merrill 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
August 31, Beloit, Wis.: Beloit 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
September 1, Merrill, Wis.: Merrill 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
September 2, Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
J. Lyons and Washington.				
September 3, Watertown, Wis.: Watertown 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Lytle and Washington.				
September 4, Chippewa Falls, Wis.: Chippewa Falls 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0		R. H. E.		
Union Giants 0-0 vs 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0				

Peters fielded a very strong Chicago Union Giants team for the 1909 season that included the following starting lineup:

Chicago Union Giants (1909)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Harry Hyde	OF	James Shawler
2B	Frank Young	OF	John Reeves
SS	Fred "Puggie" Hutchinson	OF	Jimmie Lyons
3B	Wes Pryor		
C	Tom Washington	P	Clarence "Dude" Lytle

Also pitching for the Union Giants during the 1909 season were Jimmie Lyons, Bennie Lyons Harry Hyde and Wes Pryor.

From line scores that have been located, Jimmie Lyons had an excellent rookie season on the mound with a won-loss record of 22-2 (.917) and six (6) shut outs. Jimmie's brother, Bennie, also pitched for the Chicago Union Giants during the 1909 season and compiled a won-loss record of 9-0 (1.000). According to newspaper accounts Jimmie was also one of the team's top hitters along with James Shawler (captain), Harry Hyde, Frank Young and Fred "Puggie" Hutchinson.



Chicago Union Giants vs Randolph (WI)

The Chicago Union Giants finished the 1909 season with an impressive won-loss record of 46-10 (.822) and were also the champions of the Lakeshore League.

Other top teams in the West during the 1909 season were the Leland Giants, Kansas City Giants, St. Paul Gophers, Birmingham Giants, Illinois Giants, San Antonio Black Bronchos, Indianapolis ABCs, Buxton Wonders and Minneapolis Keystones.

Both the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Gophers claimed the 1909 "Colored World's Championship." In addition Andrew "Rube" Foster claimed that his team the Leland Giants were the "Colored World's Champions" for the 1909 season even though they had lost series to both the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Colored Gophers. In addition Foster's Leland Giants never played Peter's Union Giants. The reason that the Leland Giants and Chicago Union Giants never played each other during the season was that W.S. Peters and Rube Foster had a long standing rift that went back several years. Rube Foster's "world championship" claim is just another good example of Rube's "fuzzy logic" when it came to presenting his team in the best possible light. Who is to say that the Chicago Union Giants should not have been given consideration for a claim to a "Colored World's Championship?"

Jim Shawler, Frank Young and James Lyons, who formerly wore the A. B. C. uniform, but last season were with the Chicago Unions, have signed with Kid Mitchell's Keystones, of Minneapolis, Minn., for the coming season.

Freeman
01-08-10

On January 8, 1910 the Freeman newspaper printed a short article that reported that Jim Shawler, James Lyons and Frank Young had all been signed away from the Chicago Union Giants by Kidd Mitchell, the owner of the Minneapolis Keystones, for the upcoming 1910 baseball season. Mitchell's plan was to build a championship team. To further strengthen his roster Kidd also signed star pitcher Bill Gatewood.

It is unclear how much time during the first part of the season Jimmie was with Minneapolis. We do know that he was not with the Keystones in mid-April. In early April of 1910 Jimmie Lyons was back with the Chicago Union Giants playing right field and batting clean-up.

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



Minneapolis Keystones (1910)

Research has identified that Jimmie Lyons spent most of the 1910 season with the St. Louis Giants. The team was owned and operated by Charles Mills (an African American bank messenger). They played their home games at Athletic Park.

St. Louis Giants

Would like to hear from all first class clubs. Address all communications to Charles A. Mills, 2320 Pine St., St. Louis, Mo. We own our own Park—on direct car line.

Freeman
07-02-10

THE ST. LOUIS GIANTS IN SPLEN- DID FORM.									
Special to THE FREEMAN.									
Manager Mills, of the St. Louis Giants Baseball Club, has one of the best colored teams in the country under his wing; and this has been clearly demonstrated by the wonderful article of ball they have been playing in the past several weeks.									
On July 3 and 4 the St. Louis Giants defeated the Memphis Unions before one of the largest crowds that ever assembled under one roof to witness a semi-professional ball game in the city of St. Louis. The Giants gave Memphis two sound wallopings.									
St. L. Giants 3 0 0 2 3 0 4 2 *—34 Memphis Unions . . 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1—1 Batteries—Lyons and Primm; Talbot, Lee and Turner. Attendance, 7,250.									
The St. Louis Giants continued their long string of victories by taking two games from Nashville, July 10 and 11, before a great crowd.									
First Game— Giants 1 4 4 0 0 0 0 1 *—10 Nashville 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 0—4 Batteries—Lyons and Primm; Sneed, Calhoun and Turner. Attendance, 4,500.									
Second game— Giants 5 0 0 1 0 0 3 0 *—9 Nashville 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 Batteries—Stevenson and Primm; Hurt and Woodford. Attendance, 2,500.									
Before one of the most fashionable crowds of the season the Giants continued to win by downing the Black Eagles of New Orleans, in two brilliant games, July 17 and 18.									
First game— Giants 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 *—3 Black Eagles 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0—3 Batteries—Lyons and Primm; Stevens, Scott and Ephram. Attendance, 3,200.									
Second game— Giants 2 0 0 3 0 0 0 2 *—5 Black Eagles 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 0—3 Batteries—Stevens and Primm; Scott, Stevens and Ephram. Attendance, 3,100.									

Lyons Pitches Giants to Three Wins

Freeman
1910

Jimmie Lyons Becomes a Star in St. Louis

When Jimmie Lyons joined the St. Louis Giants for the 1911 baseball season, he was a novice left-handed pitcher and part time outfielder. Felix "Dick" Wallace, team captain of the St. Louis Giants, recognized the true value that Jimmie Lyons offered his team and that was Jimmie's bat and his blazing speed. In order to take advantage of both of these attributes, Wallace converted Lyons into a full time outfielder which put him in the starting line-up everyday. Felix's decision paid huge benefits for both Lyons and the Giants the entire season.

The St. Louis Giants along with the Chicago American Giants and Kansas City Giants were considered the top three teams in the West during the 1911 baseball season.

St. Louis fielded a very strong line-up in 1911 that was led by the hitting of Jimmie Lyons (.386), Ben Taylor (.379), Joe Hewitt (.308) and Candy Jim Taylor (.290). According to research by Negro League historian John Holway, Jimmie Lyons was the top hitter in the West for the 1911 season.

Ben Taylor, "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor and Arthur Gilliard comprised the team's starting rotation during the season. From available records, the St. Louis Giants appear to have had a very successful year. They posted a won-loss record of 26-17 (.600) against other top level black teams.

The 1910 St. Louis Giants team featured the play of Joe Hewitt (SS), Charley Hill (3B), Alex Jones (OF), Jimmie Lyons (P/OF), William McMurray (1B), and William Prim (C). "Big Chief" Nathan Knight was the team's center fielder and power hitter.

When the Minneapolis Keystones came to St. Louis in late August, James Lyons was playing with the St. Louis Giants. After the Keystones played the St. Louis Giants, Jimmie joined his old team the Keystones to play a couple of games on August 30th and 31st against the Merten's All Stars. The Keystones lost the first game by a score of 6-6. In the second game James Lyons and Clarence "Dude" Lytle combined to beat Merten's team by a score of 6-3.

Lyons also played in a game for the Illinois Giants on May 28th.

During the 1910 season the top teams in the West were Leland Giants, Kansas City Royal Giants, Chicago Giants, Indianapolis ABCs, Kansas City Giants, Minneapolis Keystones, St. Paul Gophers, Stars of Cuba, Oklahoma Monarchs, West Baden Sprudels, French Lick Plutos and Illinois Giants. Rube Foster reported a won-loss record of 123-6 (.953) for his Leland Giants. Foster also had a standing offer for a "championship series" with a \$ 3,000.00 side bet against any team that wanted to take on his Leland Giants. He never got any takers.

Lyons Joins the Lincoln Giants

After the regular 1911 season, Jimmie Lyons traveled back East to join the New York Lincoln Giants about mid-September for the post season. The Lincoln Giants had been formed before the start of the 1911 season by brothers Jess and Rod McMahon. Legendary black baseball star, Sol White, helped the McMahon brothers put together a championship caliber team in just one season. When he joined the Lincoln Giants he became part of a starting line-up that included black super star players John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (SS), Spotswood Poles (OF), Jude Gans (OF) and Louis Santop (C). The New York Lincoln Giants also had an outstanding pitching staff that included Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Dan McClellan, Harry Buckner and Tom Johnson. Besides being the team's starting shortstop and leading hitter, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd was also the Lincoln Giants manager. The Lincoln Giants were one of the two top teams in the East in 1911.



Lincoln Giants (1911)

(Standing left to right – **Dan McClellan, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, Spot Poles, Bill Francis, Sol White, Dick Redding, Louis Santop, Jude Gans** and Pete Booker. Kneeling left to right - Phil Bradley, **Grant "Homerun" Johnson, Harry Buckner and George Wright**)

One of the highlights of the 1911 season for the Lincoln Giants was a four game series that they played against the Jersey City Skeeters of the International League. Dick "Cannonball" Redding won all three games he started including both ends of a double header. He won the first game 6-3 and pitched a 5-0 shutout in the second game of the doubleheader as the Lincoln Giants took the series three games to one.

The New York Lincoln Giants also played several games against Major League all-star teams in late 1911. These exhibition games included one team headed up by Walter Johnson and Honus Wagner and another team that featured Eddie Plank and Jack Barry. In the game played in October against Walter "Big Train" Johnson's team, Johnson struck out 14 Lincoln Giants players on the way to a 5-3 win over Smokey Joe Williams. It was also in this game that Jimmie Lyons experienced one of his most memorable events of his post season play with the Lincoln Giants. In five at bats against arguably the best white pitcher in baseball, Jimmie collected two hits off Walter Johnson. The New York Lincoln Giants lost their game against Eddie Plank and his all-star team by a score of 3-2.

Jimmie Travels to Cuba to Play for Fe

In January of 1912 Jimmie Lyons and several other black players traveled to Cuba to play for team Fe in the Cuban League. The thirty-four (34) game “league” season started play on January 14th and the season ended on April 29th. Only three teams (Almendares, Habana and Fe) played in the Cuban League in 1912.

Team Fe was managed by Agustin Molina who had also played and managed for black teams in the United States. Fe was led by the hitting of Alfredo Cabrera (.342), Gervasio “Strike” Gonzalez (.302), Jimmie Lyons (.288) and Spottswood Poles (.258). Frank “The Red Ant” Wickware (10-4) and Dick “Cannonball” Redding (4-8) were the team’s top pitchers. At the end of the season Jimmie Lyons led the Cuban League in at bats (118) and in triples (4). His complete hitting statistics for the season were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1912	Fe	32	118	19	34	5	4	0	15	-	.288	.398

The final Cuban League standings for the 1912 season were Habana (22-12 .647), Almendares (17-17 .500) and Fe (14-24 .368). Habana was led by the hitting of Grant “Homerun” Johnson (.410) and John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.388). Smokey Joe Williams (10-7) led Habana in pitching.

Lyons Returns to St. Louis

Jimmie Lyons returned to the St. Louis Giants at the beginning of the 1912 season. During the off season team owner Charles Mills made a change in the captain of the team. George “Chappie” Johnson replaced Felix “Dick” Wallace who concentrated on playing shortstop for the season. The Giants continued to play their home games at Athletic Park during the 1912 season.



Wesley “Whip” Pryor (.388), Sam Bennett (.356), Joe Hewitt (.322) and Jules Thomas (.290) led the team in hitting. Jimmie Lyons had a mediocre at the plate in 1912. In the twenty-five (25) box scores that have been found for Jimmie’s 1912 season he hit a mere .258. During the season Walter Ball, William “Dizzy” Dismukes, Frank “Lefty” Harvey, Ad Lankford, Archie Pate and Lee Wade all pitched for the St. Louis Giants. In addition, Negro League researcher, John Holway, has found two games in which Jimmie Lyons pitched for the St. Louis Giants. Lyons won both of the games he pitched.

During the 1912 season the St. Louis Giants and Chicago American Giants developed an intense rivalry that would last for several years. This stemmed from the fact that several of the St. Louis players were from Chicago or had played for Chicago. This group of players included Walter Ball, Chappie Johnson, Jimmie Lyons, Wes Pryor and Felix “Dick” Wallace. In one series that was played in Chicago in July extra seats had to be added to meet the demands of an over flowing crowd. According to an article that appeared in the Freeman newspaper on July 7th Rube Foster’s Chicago American Giants overcame a 4 to 7 deficit to take an 8 to 7 win in the first game. Behind the brilliant pitching of William “Dizzy” Dismukes, St. Louis took the second game by a score of 5-2.

Charles Mills
St. Louis Giants
Team Owner – Manager

Besides playing an independent schedule, the St. Louis Giants also played in the St. Louis City League and were crowned the “league’s” champions at the end of the 1912 season.

Florida Hotel League



Breakers Hotel



Royal Poinciana Hotel

Currently thirty-nine (39) box scores have been found for the St. Louis Giants for their 1912 season. Their won-loss record for these games was 18-21 (.462) and generally considered the fifth best team in the West. Games from the St. Louis City League are not included in these totals. In addition we are missing a significant amount of games played against lower level opponents and according to newspaper records the Giants did very well against this level of competition.

Lyons Travels to Florida

In January of 1913 Jimmie traveled to Florida to play for the Breakers Hotel in the Florida Hotel League. The Florida Hotel League or the Coconut League as it was sometimes called was a two team league in Florida that was comprised of all-black baseball teams representing the Breakers Hotel and the Royal Poinciana Hotel. During the winter black ball players would travel to Florida and take jobs as bellmen, porters, cooks, dish washers, wait staff and other service personnel in the big resort hotels. Each winter season management of the Breakers and Royal Poinciana would form baseball teams and games would be scheduled for the entertainment of the resort guests.

The Breakers Bulldogs fielded a strong team for the 1913 winter season in Florida.

Breakers Bulldogs (1913)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Tullie McAdoo	OF	Sam Bennett
2B	W. "Nux" James	OF	Joe Hewitt
SS	Felix "Dick" Wallace	OF	Jimmie Lyons
3B	Sam Mongin		
C	Phil Bradley/ Pete Booker	P	Frank Wickware

The Royal Poinciana Hotel was led by the hitting of Grant "Homerun" Johnson, Andrew "Jap" Payne, Jules Thomas and Pearl "Spec" Webster. William "Dizzy" Dismukes and Frank Harvey were the Royal Poinciana's top two pitchers.

The two teams battled back and forth the entire fourteen (14) game season. When the season finally came to an end, each team had won seven (7) games.

Jimmie Signs with French Lick Plutos

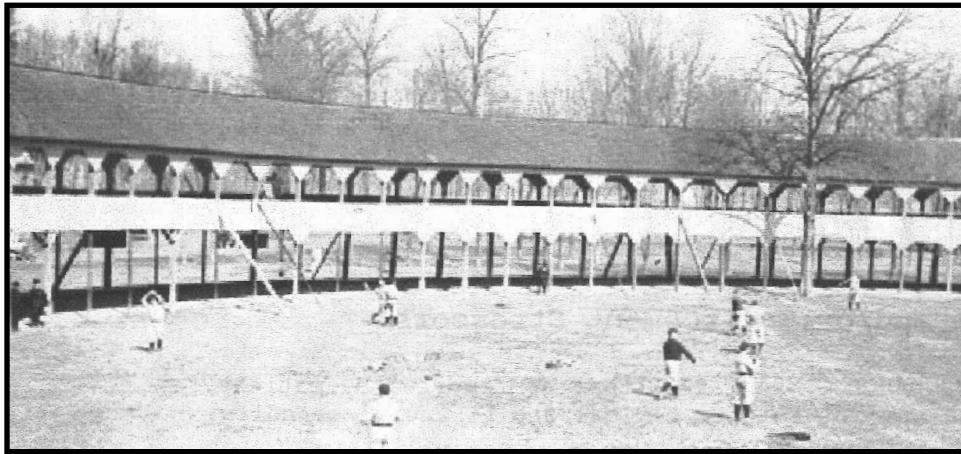
Jimmie Lyons played the majority of the 1913 season for the French Lick Plutos. The team was sponsored by the French Lick Springs Resort Hotel in Indiana. The Plutos were owned by Tom Taggart. The French Lick Resort like its neighbor the West Baden Springs Resort was a popular vacation spot for wealthy tourists. Baseball games were used by both resorts as a source of entertainment for the hotel guests. Besides enjoying watching the games the rich tourists also loved to bet on the game's outcome.



French Lick Resort

French Lick, IN

The French Lick Resort's baseball team was founded about 1907 and immediately formed a rivalry with the West Baden Sprudels who were sponsored by a neighboring resort hotel owned by Lee Sinclair. The original baseball teams for French Lick and West Baden were made up of hotel employees and local ball players. As baseball gained in popularity both resort hotels started bringing in professional ball players to anchor their roster. This occurred about 1910 when Charles Isham "C.I." Taylor took over the West Baden Sprudels. Up until 1910 when Taylor took over the Sprudels, the Plutos had dominated their neighboring opponent.



French Lick Plutos
Practice Field

Over the five years (1910-1914) of the French Lick Plutos heyday as a high level professional team, the Plutos played countless games against their arch rival West Baden Sprudels but also played an extensive independent-barnstorming schedule. When West Baden and French Lick played each other games were played as part of the Spring Valley League schedule. Ironically, French Lick and West Baden were the only two teams in the "league."

The French Lick Plutos played their home games at Pluto Park in French Lick and the West Baden Sprudels played their home games inside the West Baden Springs Hotel double-decker bicycle track. West Baden's baseball venue was called Sprudel Park,

The 1913 French Lick Plutos were managed first by James Norman before he gave way to Sam Gordon who also occasionally filled in at first base. Bingo DeMoss (2B), Henry Hannon (OF), Dan Kennard (C), Eddie Lee (OF), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Henry "Mike" Moore (1B), Jim Norman (3B) and Joe Scotland (OF) led the team in hitting during the 1913 season. Arthur "Hamp" Gilliard was the ace of the pitching staff. James Lynch, Henry "Mack" McLaughlin, James Patton and Johnny Davis also pitched for French Lick in 1913.

According to an article that appeared in the Freeman on October 18th, the French Lick Platos ended the 1913 season with an incredibly impressive won-loss record of 108-33-3 (.765).

Some researchers identify Jimmie Lyons as also playing first base for the Indianapolis ABCs during the 1913 regular season. This, however, is not true. Jimmie's brother Bennie was the Lyons brother who played first base for Indianapolis in 1913.

In addition to his tenure with the French Lick Platos, Jimmie also briefly played for the West Baden Sprudels in 1913 and with his brother Bennie for the Indianapolis ABCs during their post season play in October.

Platos' record for the season follows:			
	Won.	Lost.	Played.
Kokomo	0	1	1
American Giants	1	6	7
Louisville Cubs	2	0	2
White Sox	0	1	1
A. B. C.'s	7	0	7
St. Louis Giants	3	0	3
Sprudels	25	18	43
On road	70	7	77
Totals	108	33	141
Tied			3
Percentage765

Freeman

10-18-13



West Baden Springs Resort

West Baden Springs, IN

Fifty (50) box scores and line score have been found for the West Baden Sprudels 1913 season. Under the leadership and management of Charles Isham "C.I." Taylor, the Sprudels compiled a record of 29-19-1 (.604) and were considered the "Colored Champions of Indiana."

Lyons Joins the Brooklyn Royal Giants

After playing briefly for the Chicago Giants in May, Jimmie Lyons signed with the Brooklyn Royal Giants who were one of the top three teams in the East during the 1914 season.

Prior to the start of the 1914 baseball season, Nat Strong took over control of the Brooklyn Royal Giants from John Connors. The Brooklyn Royal Giants were organized in 1905 by John Connors who also owned the Brooklyn Royal Cafe. Under Connors leadership, the Royal Giants were considered the best team in the East in 1909 and 1910.

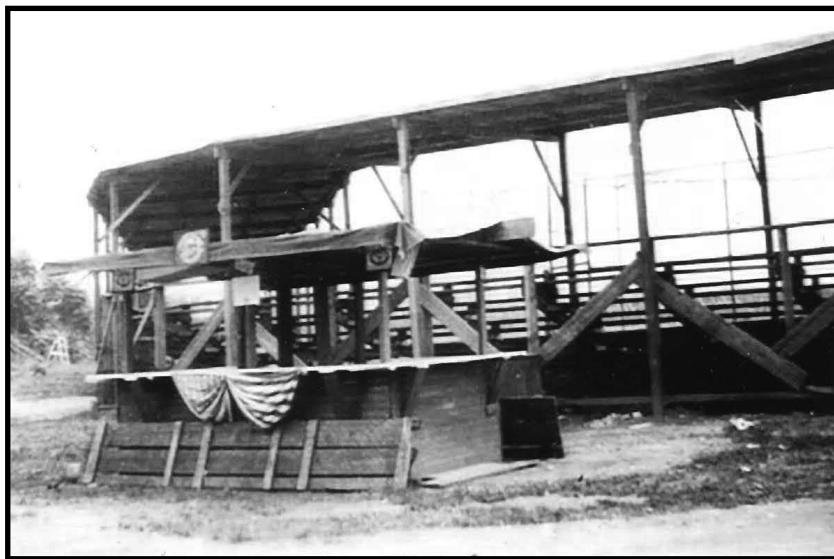


Brooklyn Royal Giants (c. 1914)

With the purchase of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Nat Strong became the premier sports booking agent in the East and he also owned one of the top black baseball teams in the country. Once Strong purchased the Brooklyn Royal Giants, he formed a business alliance with James Keenan who owned the Lincoln Giants. Keenan operated his Lincoln Giants out of Harlem in direct competition with the McMahon brothers. Keenan's business relationship with Strong forced the McMahon brothers out of baseball, gave control of black baseball in Harlem to Keenan and strengthened his position in baseball in New York City. Between Strong and Keenan they controlled the best ball parks in New York City and were able to sign the best ball players in the East. Nat Strong played his most important ball games at Ridgewood Park in Brooklyn and James Keenan played out of Olympic Field in Harlem. The business partnership between Nat Strong and James Keenan made it very difficult for other owners of black teams to operate in the New York City area.

Being the owner of the Brooklyn Royal Giants further reinforced Nat Strong's ability to schedule games against the best white semi-professional teams, black baseball teams, Major League squads and all-star teams. Nat also had exclusive booking rights to the Cuban Stars and Philadelphia Giants in the New York City area. In addition Nat Strong continued to serve as the president of the Intercity Association of New York.

When Nat Strong purchased the 1914 Brooklyn Royal Giants they were a solid team with a strong playing history. The Royal Giants were managed by Charles "Frank" Earle. They were an independent team and played many of their home games at the Ridgewood Grounds that was located in the Ridgewood area of Queens (NY).



Ridgewood Grounds

**Home Field
of
Brooklyn Royal Giants**

The Brooklyn Royal Giants had a strong starting line-up in 1914 that included:

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Phil Bradley	OF	Jules Thomas
2B	Bill Handy	OF	Charles Earle
SS	Morten Clark	OF	Jimmie Lyons
3B	Jesse Bragg	P	Frank "Lefty" Harvey
C	Pearl "Spec" Webster		

The Royal Giants were led by the hitting of Charles Earle (.321), Bill Handy (.306) and Jules Thomas (.303). The pitching staff for the 1914 Brooklyn Royal Giants included Frank "Lefty" Harvey (8-4), Dizzy Dismukes (6-12), Doc Sykes (0-3), Pop Andrews and Lee Wade. The Brooklyn Royal Giants pitching staff was considered the second most effective staff during the 1914 season in the East.

Researchers disagree with Jimmie Lyons' batting average for the 1914 season. According to Negro League historian James Riley, Jimmie batted .375 for the Royal Giants in 1914. The one problem with Riley's research is that we don't know how many games, at bats and hits Riley analyzed to get a .375 batting average. The Seamheads research team has found thirty-one (31) box scores with Jimmie Lyons in the line-up for the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1914. In these thirty-one (31) games Jimmie went 32 for 116 for a .276 batting average with a .379 slugging percentage. Baseball Reference credits Lyons with a .260 average and the research team of Larry Lester and Dick Clark show Lyons with a .241 batting average.

Thirty-three (33) regular season games have been located for the 1914 Royal Giants. Brooklyn had a record of 14-19 (.424) in these outings. They were considered the third best team in the East during the season right behind the New York Lincoln Stars (1st) and New York Lincoln Giants (2nd).

After the regular season Nat Strong sent his Brooklyn Royal Giants team to Chicago to play a series with the Chicago American Giants for the "Colored World's Championship." The most interesting part of the series is that the Brooklyn Royal Giants were clearly not the best team in the East. What they did have, however, was Nat Strong as their owner and he was a booking wizard. According to the Chicago Defender in a story that appeared in their newspaper on September 12th, the Chicago American Giants made short work of their opponents from Brooklyn and took the championship series in five straight games by the scores on 3-0 (8/30), 7-0 (8/31), 7-6 (9/02), 3-1 (9/03) and 3-2 (9/04).

In October of 1914 Jimmie Lyons joined the New York Lincoln Giants for two games against the Philadelphia Phillies of the National League. The first game was played on October 11th in New York City. Behind the pitching of Smokey Joe Williams the Lincoln Giants soundly defeated their white Major League opponents by a score of 10-3. The second game which was played several days later ended in a 1-1 tie. Jimmie struggled against the Major League pitchers and only went 1 for 8 in the two game series.

He also played in a game for the Indianapolis ABCs on November 1st.

Jimmie Lyons Starts 1915 Season with Indianapolis

Jimmie Lyons played a couple of games for the Indianapolis ABCs in April of 1915 before joining the St. Louis Giants for the regular season. St. Louis was managed by Felix "Dick" Wallace and the team played their home games at Kuebler Park for the 1915 season.



Kuebler Park

Home of St. Louis Giants

Lyons Stars for the St. Louis Giants

Lyons started the 1915 regular season with St. Louis off on a hot streak that lasted all season. At the end of the year Jimmie had compiled a batting average of .390 and slugging percentage of .689 for the season. His complete hitting statistics for the season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1915	St. Louis	41	164	53	64	11	4	10	48	39	.390	.689

Other top hitters for the St. Louis Giants in 1915 were Dick Wallace (.357), Tullie McAdoo (.333), Pearl "Spec" Webster (.333) and Lorenzo Cobb (.283). Reportedly the St. Louis Giants were the top hitting team in the West during the 1915 season.

Andrew "String Bean" Williams was the ace of the pitching staff. Bill Gatewood, Hub Miller, and Joe Smith also pitched for St. Louis in 1915. Unfortunately, the pitching staff struggled the majority of the season and were mediocre at best.

At the end of the season the Indianapolis ABCs and Chicago American Giants were considered the two top teams in the West. The St. Louis Giants finished the season with what was reported as a disappointing record. St. Louis apparently did well against lower level teams but struggled against top level competition.

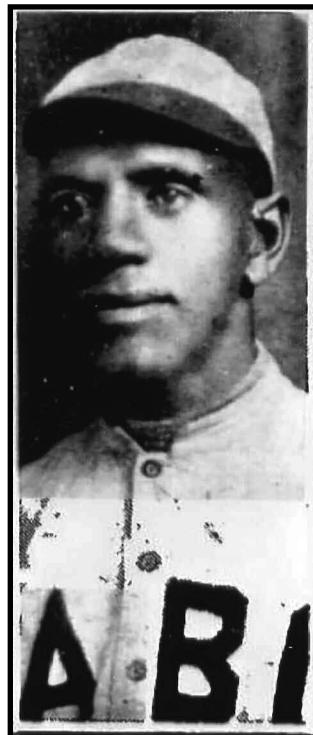
In the middle of October of 1915, Jimmie was recruited by C.I. Taylor for several post season games and for the ABCs trip to Cuba.

The primary reason that C.I. Taylor, owner and manager of Indianapolis, brought in Jimmie Lyons was his hitting. Indianapolis hitters struggled at the plate all season. In games against top level competition, they compiled a meager .222 team batting average for the season. George Shively (.298) and Ben Taylor (.293) were the team's top hitters for the season. Oscar Charleston (.258) was the only other hitter in the starting line-up to bat over .234 during 1915.

The ABCs' pitching staff was headed up by William "Dizzy" Dismukes (14-5) and Dicta Johnson (14-8) carried the team most of the season. They were considered the top two pitchers in the West during the 1915 season. The highlight of the season for Dizzy Dismukes was when he pitched a no-hitter against the Chicago Union Giants on May 9th. Other members of the pitching staff in 1915 included Tom Johnson and Jim Jeffries. With only a four man pitching staff, the following position players also saw some time on the mound: Oscar Charleston, Ben Taylor, Morten Clark and Fred Hutchinson.

The Indianapolis ABCs finished the 1915 season with an impressive won-loss record of 51-23-4 (.689). From current research, it appears that the Indianapolis ABCs were the top team in the West in 1915.

However, Rube Foster promoted his Chicago American Giants as the "Colored Champions of the World" with a record of 60-17-2 (.779). It is important to note that the Chicago American Giants played two series against the Indianapolis ABCs during the season. In June Chicago took three of the five games they played against Indianapolis, but in July Indianapolis took all four games in their series with Chicago. In short the ABCs won six games and only lost three against the American Giants. According to current research there was no "championship series" played in 1915 to resolve the issue of which team was the best in the West. A case can be made for both the Chicago American Giants and the Indianapolis ABCs as the "Colored Champion of the West" for the 1915 season.



C.I. Taylor
Indianapolis ABCs



Elwood "Bingo" De Moss

In October of 1915 the Indianapolis ABCs faced the Major-Minor League All Stars in a three game series that was played on October 10th, 17th and 24th. The Major-Minor League All Stars took game one and the Indianapolis ABCs won game two by a score of 3-2. Game three of the series ended in turmoil when Oscar Charleston punched an umpire in the mouth. The game was called when a near riot broke out. The Major-Minor League All Stars were awarded the victory. Both Oscar Charleston and Bingo De Moss were arrested and went to jail. C.I. bailed out his ball players and publicly apologized for what he considered a "cowardly act."

The incident with Charleston and De Moss was particularly difficult for C.I. Taylor who always presented himself a person with very high moral standards.

C.I. Taylor Writes from Cuba

MANAGER TAYLOR REGRETS A. B. C. TROUBLE

**Writes from Cuba Hoping That
Public Will Not Blame Him
for Conditions in Final Indian-
apolis Game.**

Havana, Cuba, Nov. 5.—Mr. C. I. Taylor, manager of the A. B. C. baseball team, one of the best semi-pro. teams in the west, and rated as the best in Indiana, rends out a statement to his friends and the sporting public asking fair and impartial judgment over the recent trouble in their final game at Indianapolis two Sundays ago with the All-Star team of Ownie Bush.

"I am very grieved over the most unfortunate and degrading affair pulled off by DeMorn and Charleston. Umpire Scanlon was wholly blameless. His decision might have been questionable, but there is not one word that can be said justifying the perpetrators of that unfortunate and untimely happening. It was an awful climax of my last year's work," says Mr. Taylor.

"I feel that I should not be censured for the conduct of these two men. Neither should our club, for I do not believe that there is any man on the club outside those two who would have committed such an ungentlemanly and unsportsmanlike act. Every member has expressed to me his deepest regrets. And, too, I believe that if DeMorn had any idea that things would have turned out as they did he would not have raised a hand to push the umpire. Remember we are not trying to shadow him for his actions. He needs no defense—he was wrong. But knowing him as I do, I am fully convinced that his conduct was worse than his heart.

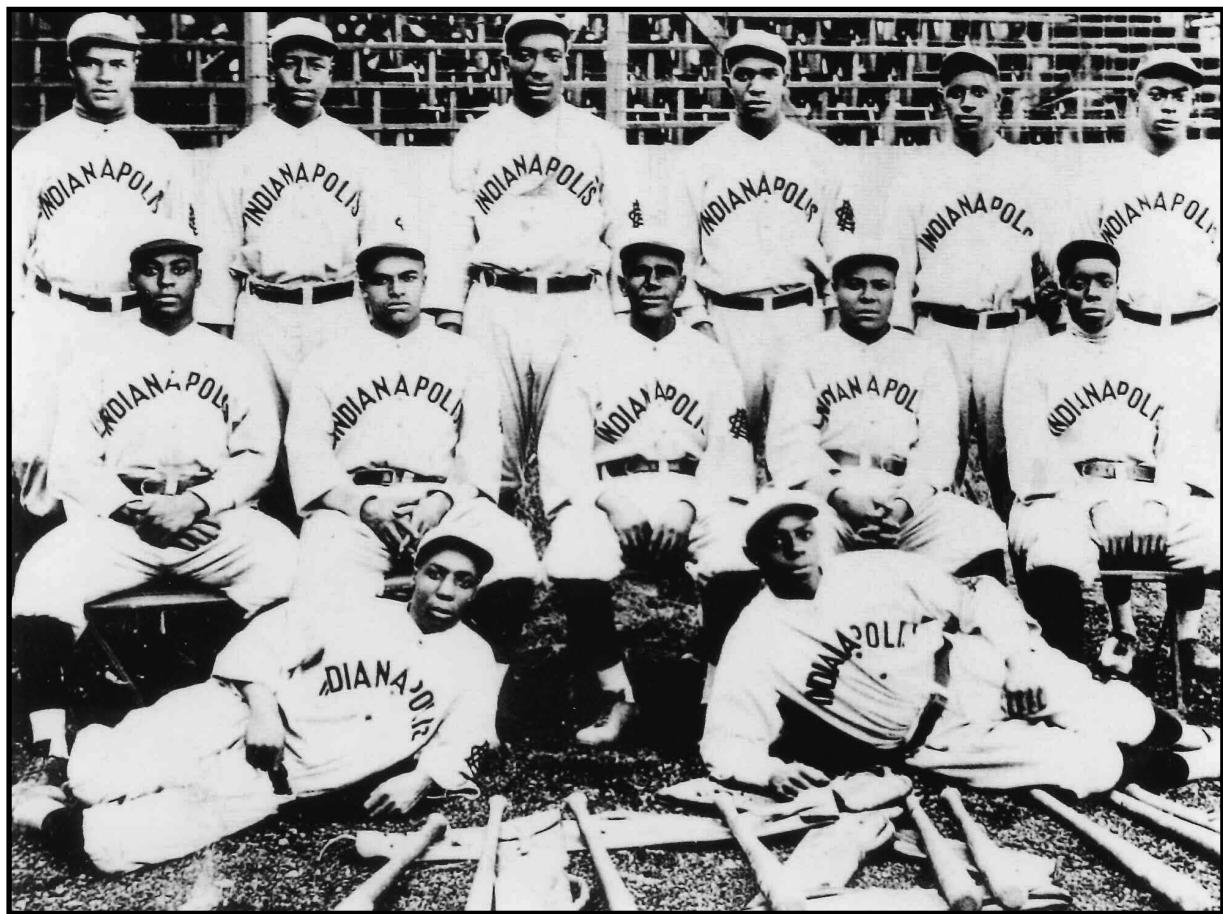
C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABCs Travel to Cuba

After the fiasco with Charleston and De Moss that occurred during the Major-Minor League All Stars series, C.I. Taylor took his team to Cuba to play in the American Series which was an exhibition series against the top professional teams on the island. To bolster his roster for the tour, Taylor signed Dick "Cannonball" Redding who was one of the best pitchers in baseball. The roster that C.I. Taylor took to Cuba and their batting averages for the American Series was as follows:

Indianapolis ABCs (1915)

Position	Player	Average	Position	Player	Average
1B	Ben Taylor	.380	OF	Jimmie Lyons	.295
2B	Bingo De Moss	.333	OF	George Shively	.207
SS	Morten Clark	.279	OF	Oscar Charleston	.174
3B	Todd Allen	.404	P	Dick Redding	6-5
C	Russell Powell	.208			
C	Dan Kennard	.333			

Also pitching for the ABCs during their trip to Cuba to play in the American Series were Louis "Dicta" Johnson (1-3), James Jeffries (1-2), Ben Taylor (0-1) and Oscar Charleston (0-1).



Indianapolis ABCs (1915)
Post Season Roster

(back row left to right –Russell Powell, **Ben Taylor**, **Dick "Cannonball" Redding**, **Elwood "Bingo" De Moss**, Morten Clark and Dan Kennard. Seated left to right – **Oscar Charleston**, Dicta Johnson, **C.I. Taylor**, **Jimmie Lyons** and Tom Allen. Front row left to right – **George Shively** and James Jeffries.)

The Indianapolis ABCs had an excellent roster on paper that included one of the best outfields (Oscar Charleston, Jimmie Lyons and George Shively) in the history of black baseball.

The twenty (20) game American Series was played at Almendares Park.

The Indianapolis ABC's got off to a good start. They played their first game in Cuba on October 30th against the Almendares Alacranes. Taylor sent his ace pitcher during the regular season Louis "Dicta" Johnson to the mound to face Cincinnati Reds and Cuban great Adolfo Luque. Behind the hitting of Bingo DeMoss, Jimmie Lyons and Ben Taylor, Indianapolis walked off with a 5-4 win when Dick Redding came into the game in the late innings to shut down the Alacranes and pick up the win. The ABCs took the field the next day on October 31st with Dick Redding picking up his second victory in two days.

The rest of the tour did not go as well for Indianapolis. Over the course of their stay in Cuba, Taylor's team played nine games against Almendares, nine games against Habana and two games versus San Francisco. Indianapolis ended their tour of Cuba at Almendares Park on December 2nd with a 5-4 loss to team San Francisco. The Indianapolis ABCs went 8-12 (.400). Habana posted a 6-3 (.667) record, Almendares went 5-4 (.556) and San Francisco was 1-1 (.500) against Indianapolis.

The Indianapolis ABCs lack of success in Cuba had nothing to do with their hitting. As a team they compiled a .287 (182 for 634) team batting average during the winter of 1915 in Cuba. Todd Allen (.404), Ben Taylor (.380), Bingo De Moss (.333), Dan Kennard (.333) and Jimmie Lyons (.295) led the ABCs in hitting. Lyons also had eight (8) stolen bases during the American Series.

Taylor's problem in the American Series was his pitching staff. Indianapolis pitchers gave up 123 runs in the twenty (20) games played for a lofty 6.47 earned run average. They simply couldn't get their Cuban opponents out. Redding who was supposed to be their "ringer" did post a 6-5 (.545) won-loss record but had a miserable 5.56 ERA. The rest of the staff went 2-7 (.222). To make matters worse the ABCs committed 57 errors in just 20 games. Morten Clark had the toughest time on the playing field, making 13 errors at shortstop for a horrible .879 fielding percentage.

C.I. Taylor Takes His Team to Florida

During the first part of January of 1916, C.I. Taylor took his Indianapolis ABCs team to Palm Beach, Florida to represent the Royal Poinciana Hotel in the Florida Hotel League.

C.I. Taylor got great hitting from his team during the winter season of early 1916 in Florida. The leading hitters for Taylor's Royal Poinciana team were Ben Taylor (.343), Joe Hewitt (.333), Todd Allen (.313) and Ashby Dunbar (.300). Jimmie Lyons had a horrible winter season in Florida. From the five box scores that have been found, Jimmie went 3 for 9 for a miserable .158 batting average. Oscar Charleston and Bingo De Moss, two of the best players from the 1915 Indianapolis ABC team, did not make the trip to Florida because of legal problems they faced in Indianapolis. Unfortunately for C.I. his pitching staff was a dismal failure. Dizzy Dismukes who was the ace of the pitching staff went 2-2 while pitching for the Royal Poinciana Hotel. John Donaldson who Taylor picked up from the All Nations team had a disappointing won-loss record of 1-5. Jim Jeffries (1-0) and Dicta Johnson (1-0) rounded out the pitching staff for the Royal Poinciana.

The Breakers Hotel Bulldogs who were led by the pitching of Smokey Joe Williams (5-1 w/ two shut outs) and Ad Langford (5-2) won the Florida Hotel League with a won-loss record of 10-6-1. Spottswood Poles was the top hitter for the Breakers Hotel squad with a .353 batting average. Blainey Hall, Felix Wallace and Louis Santop also hit extremely well during the Florida winter league season. This was the third year in a row that the Breakers Hotel team had won the championship.



Royal Poinciana Baseball Club
Florida Hotel League

(Back row left to right – Dan Kennard, **Candy Jim Taylor**, **Jimmie Lyons** and Joe Hewitt. Middle row left to right – **Ben Taylor**, Morten Clark, James Jeffries, Todd Allen, and Ashby Dunbar. Front row left to right – Louis “Dicta” Johnson, Russell Powell, Frank Forbes, **C.I. Taylor**, John Donaldson and Bill Pierce.)

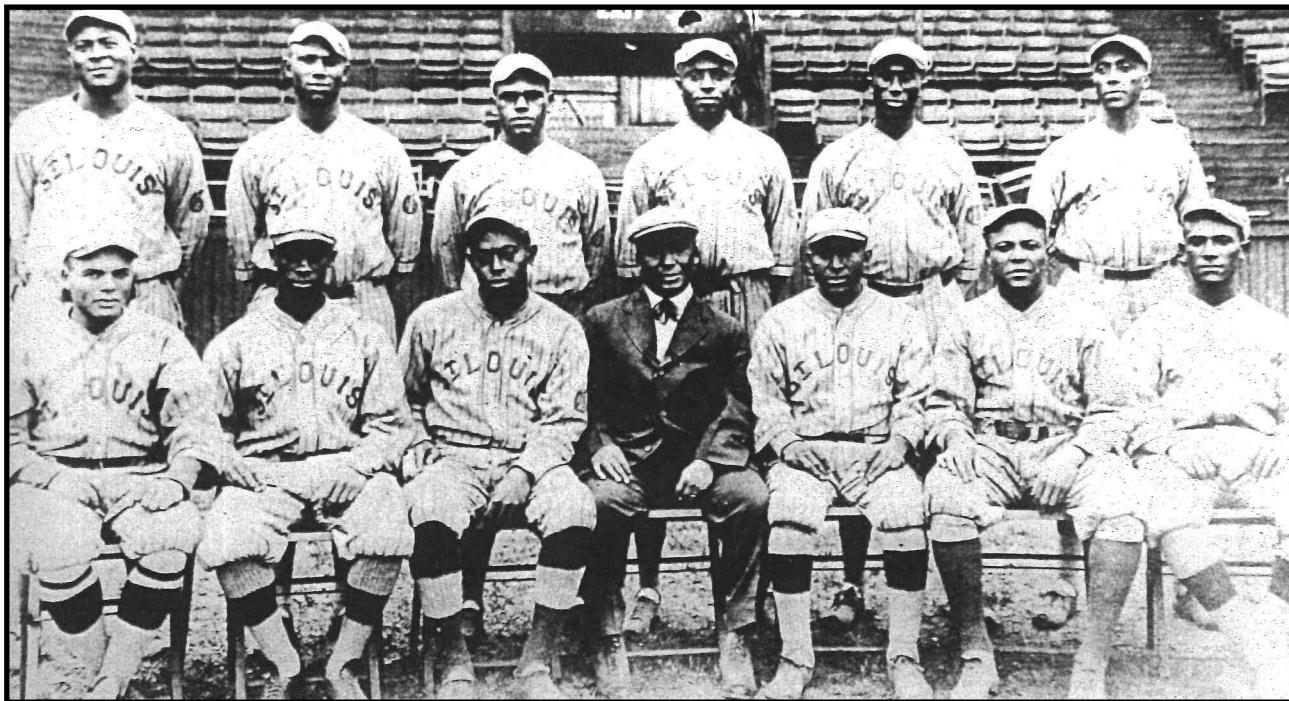
Jimmie Lyons Joins the St. Louis Giants

After returning from Florida, Jimmie Lyons joined the St. Louis Giants for the entire 1916 baseball season. Felix “Dick” Wallace managed the team during the season. St. Louis played their home games at Federal League Park, Brock’s Park and the Christian Brothers College Diamond during the 1916 season.

The top hitters on the St. Louis Giants team were Frank Warfield (.343), Sam Bennett (.327), Jimmie Lyons (.289), Charlie Blackwell (.278) and Ted Kimbro (.276).

Bill Gatewood was the ace of the pitching staff. The Giants pitching staff also included Bill Drake, Melton (no first name), Hub Miller, Robert Prior, Saulter (no first name), Lee Wade and Andrew “String Bean” Williams. Jimmie Lyons also pitched in several games in 1916.

The St. Louis Giants played an extensive schedule in 1916 that continued on into October. It appears they were very competitive against lower level and town teams, but in games against top level competition they posted a losing record of 18-24-2 (.429). According to the Seamheads research team the St. Louis Giants were the fifth best team in the West during the 1916 season. The top teams in the West in 1916 were Chicago American Giants (40-26-3), Indianapolis ABCs (23-18-3), Cuban Stars West (35-34-2) and the All Nations (record not available).



St. Louis Giants (1916)

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

Jimmie Lyons also reportedly played briefly for Bowser's ABCs during the 1916 season. Thomas Bowser owned Bowser's ABCs. He and C.I. Taylor had been partners in the ownership in the Indianapolis ABCs until they parted company and each formed their own team. Bowser's ABCs were a lower level team that was led by the hitting of Archie Pate, Todd Allen, Charles Blackwell and Fred Hutchinson. Whip Prior was the ace of Bowser's pitching staff.

Lyons Joins the Breakers Bulldogs

Prior to the start of the 1917 regular baseball season, Jimmie Lyons was recruited by the Breakers Hotel in Florida to play for them for their winter league season. The Breakers Bulldogs roster for their 1917 season was led by the hitting of Jimmie Lyons (OF), Spottswood Poles (OF) and Louis Santop (C). Smokey Joe Williams and Dick “Cannonball” Redding were the two main pitchers for the Breakers Hotel team. Their opponent in the 1917 Florida Hotel League twelve (12) game schedule was the Royal Poinciana Hotel. Key players for the Royal Poinciana squad were Bingo DeMoss (2B), Oscar Charleston (OF) and Juan Padrone (P). At season's end the Royal Poinciana Hotel had won seven (7) games and the Breakers Hotel had won five (5) games.

Jimmie Lyons Stays on the Road

During the 1917 season Jimmie Lyons played for at least five different teams during the season. They were as follows:

All Nations – barnstorming team owned and managed by J.L. Wilkinson. Originally it derived its name from having a roster comprised of players from numerous nationalities. The team primarily toured the Midwest. The All Nations squad traveled in a private Pullman car and even carried their own set of bleachers. The 1917 team fielded an incredibly strong line-up that included John Donaldson (P/OF), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Jose Mendez (P/SS), Hurley McNair

Brock Gives Up Federal Park

GIANTS COMPELLED TO SEEK HOME IN EAST ST. LOUIS Scheduled to Play Strongest Clubs

After being baffled about from park to park for the past few years, the St. Louis Giants have been finally compelled to go to East St. Louis for a home. Polo Park has been selected and it is stated that the Illinoisans were so glad to get the crack St. Louis club that the white club has been disbanded and a \$150 guarantee forfeited to the league. This hits St. Louis a hard blow, but commends the support of our boys to all of the fans on this side.

It is clearly indicated, by recent developments that the owners of the league clubs are opposing Negro baseball in this city and are determined to shut them out of all parks.

Although Brock had claimed to hold, and did exhibit, a five-year lease on Federal Park, he suddenly threw his hands up last week, claiming he had lost it and was broke. The whole transaction looks fishy.

The players were left stranded and some of the boys have left the city, but their places have been filled and the St. Louis Giants Co-operative Baseball Club has been organized, with Richard Barrett as business manager and Jimmie Lyons as captain. Barrett had accepted a position as secretary and booking agent for Brock and when he heard of the players' plight, he called the boys together and told them he had heard from C. L. Taylor, of the Indianapolis A. B. C.'s and Rube Foster, of Chicago, who advised him to hold them together. Barrett made an impassionate speech to the players and the result was the co-operative agreement.

BASE BALL

POLO PARK E. ST. LOUIS

SATURDAY, MAY 12

CUBAN STARS

VS.

St. Louis Giants

Sunday, May 13

EAST ST. LOUIS
ALL STARS

VS.

ST. LOUIS GIANTS

Came Starts at 3:15

POLO PARK IS THE FUTURE HOME
OF THE ST. LOUIS GIANTS CO-
OPERATIVE BASEBALL CLUB.
JIMMIE LYONS, CAPTAIN

Address all Communications to Rich-
ard D. Barrett, Business Manager,
2021 Laclede Ave., Phone Kinloch
Central 85772.

(OF) and Cristobal Torriente (OF). The All Nations team was considered a top level team at the time that Jimmie Lyons played for them.

Chicago Giants – an independent team that was based out of Chicago (IL). The team was owned and operated by Charles “Joe” Green. The 1917 Giants were a team made up of older veterans well past their prime. Some of these players were Walter Ball (38) (P), Harry Buckner (44) (P), Joe Green (38) (OF) and Bobby Winston (38) (OF). They were a lower level team in the West in 1917.

Jewell’s ABCs – the team origins was from the Indianapolis ABCs who were owned by Thomas Bowser and C.I. Taylor. When Bowser and Taylor split in 1915, two teams were formed. These were Bowser’s ABCs (owner – Thomas Bowser) and the Indianapolis ABCs (owner – C.I. Taylor). Bowser sold his team to black businessman Warner Jewell in 1917 and the new owner renamed his team the “Jewell’s ABCs.” Top players for the 1917 Jewell’s ABCs were Todd Allen (3B), Charlie Blackwell (OF), Connie Day (1B), Joe Scotland (OF), Pearl “Spec” Webster (C) and Frank “The Red Ant” Wickware (P). They were considered the fifth best team in the West in 1917.

New York Lincoln Giants – the team was formed in 1911 by Jess and Ed McMahon. In 1914 James Keenan gained control of the team. For several years the Lincoln Giants were one of the top two or three teams in the East. The Lincoln Giants were the “Colored Champions of the East” in 1917.

St. Louis Giants – were a strong independent team that was managed by Charles Mills with Ed Brock as the principal owner/investor. For several years they were one of the top black teams in the West. After years of bouncing around from one ballpark to another, the Giants moved to Polo Park in East St. Louis for the 1917 season. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the St. Louis Argus on May 11th, Jimmie Lyons began the season with the St. Louis Giants as their team captain and started in the outfield. When Lyons left the club, William Pettus became the team captain. Key players on the 1917 team were Sam Bennett (OF), Bunny Downs (2B), Lorenzo Cobb (C), Bill Gatewood (P) and Tullie McAdoo (1B). The St. Louis Giants were rated the eighth best team in the West in 1917. They were also an inaugural member of the Negro National League in 1920.

Jimmie Lyons Returns to Indianapolis

C.I. Taylor, owner of the Indianapolis ABCs, went into the 1918 season with high expectations and his team did not disappoint him. To bolster his roster Taylor signed John Donaldson from the All Nations baseball team for what the Freeman reported “as the highest salary known to the history of colored baseball.” Another key signing for Taylor was Jimmie Lyons. When he joined the Indianapolis ABCs, Jimmie teamed with Oscar Charleston and George Shively to form one of the best outfields in the history of black baseball.

In 1918 Taylor got excellent hitting from his starting line-up and strong pitching from his starting rotation. Oscar Charleston (.381), George Shively (.338), Frank Warfield (.333), Ben Taylor (.320), Dave Malarcher (.286), Morten Clark (.276) and Jimmie Lyons (.271) led the team in hitting during the 1918 season. The starting pitching rotation for the 1918 ABCs were Jim Jeffries (7-2), Andrew “String Bean” Williams (6-4), Dizzy Dismukes (4-5) and John Donaldson (3-1). When C.I. needed additional pitching during the season, he called on the following position players: Oscar Charleston, Morten Clark, Jimmie Lyons, Ben Taylor and Candy Jim Taylor to take the mound.

By mid July Jimmie Lyons had started playing for the St. Louis Giants but would continue to play off and on for the Indianapolis ABC throughout the rest of the 1918 season. The earliest box scores for Jimmie playing with St. Louis are from the third week in July.

FIRST GAME		A. B. G's	
RED CAPS	AB. H. A.	AB. H. A.	AB. H. A.
Part. fl.....	5 0 0	Shively, W.....	3 3 0
Dunbar, lf.....	4 2 0	Malarcher, 3b.....	2 0 1
Bernard, cf.....	5 3 1	Lyons, rf.....	3 2 0
Culver, 2b.....	3 1 3	Charleston, cf.....	4 1 0
Pearce, C.....	2 1 3	Clark, ss.....	4 2 1
Warber, m.....	3 1 4	B. Taylor, 1b.....	3 2 0
Cummings, 1b.....	4 0 1	J. Taylor, 2b.....	3 1 0
Bailey, 3b.....	4 2 3	Powell, c.....	3 0 2
Longford, D.....	3 0 0	Dismukes, p.....	3 0 5
Totals.....	33 11 10	Totals.....	20 16 14
Red Caps.....	0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 2		
A. B. G's.....	2 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 5		
Errors—Bernard, Pearce (3). Two-base hits—B. Taylor, Tries-base hit—Bailey, Sacrifice hit—Bernard. Stolen bases—Shively, Charleston, Lyons. Left on bases—Red Caps, 10; A. B. G's, 3. Double play—Dismukes to J. Taylor to B. Taylor. Baser on balls—Off Longford, 3; off Dismukes, 3. Struck out—By Dismukes, 1. Wild pitch—By Tangfoot, 1. Hit by pitcher—By Dismukes, 2 (Forbes and Pearce). Umpire—Quarters.			
SECOND GAME		A. B. G's	
RED CAPS	AB. H. A.	AB. H. A.	AB. H. A.
Longf., fl.....	4 0 0	Shively, W.....	3 2 0
Duboff, lf.....	3 0 0	Malarcher, 3b.....	2 1 2
Boyce, M, cf.....	3 0 0	Lyons, rf.....	3 1 0
Culver, 2b.....	3 2 3	Charleston, cf.....	3 3 0
Pearce, C.....	3 0 2	Warfield, cf.....	0 0 0
Warber, m.....	3 0 2	Clark, ss.....	2 1 4
Cummings, 1b.....	3 1 3	R. Taylor, 1b.....	1 1 0
Bailey, 3b.....	3 0 0	J. Taylor, 2b.....	3 0 2
Howell, D.....	3 0 0	Coleman, c.....	0 0 0
Totals.....	29 5 21	Totals.....	23 10 13
Red Caps.....	0 0 1 0 0 0 3 0 4		
A. B. G's.....	1 1 1 0 3 0 0 5 3		
(Game called at 6 o'clock.) Errors—Pearce (2), Forber (2), Cummings (3), Clark. Two-base hits—Charles, Clark. Three-base hits—Lyons, B. Taylor, Stolen bases—Malarcher, B. Taylor, Shively, Charleston, Clark. Cummings, B. Taylor. Double plays—Clark to J. Taylor to B. Taylor; Clark to B. Taylor. Left on bases—Red Caps, 2; A. B. G's, 5. Sacrifice hits—Clark. Strike out—By Jeffries, 3. Bases on balls—Off Howell, 1; off Howell, 0. Hit by pitcher—By Jeffries, 1 (Duboff). Double—Quarters.			

Lyons Goes 3 for 6

Freeman

08-24-18

An interesting side note to the difficulty in documenting the St. Louis Giants 1918 season is that the Seamheads research team doesn't list any records for St. Louis in their reported research. In addition The Negro League Book compiled by noted Negro League historians Larry Lester and Dick Clark don't even list a team roster for the 1918 St. Louis Giants. Negro League researcher John Holway has reported finding four (4) games for the St. Louis Giants for their 1918 season. Holway's starting line-up for the 1918 St. Louis Giants is as follows: Tullie McAdoo (1B), Bunny Downs (2B), Frank Warfield (SS), Felix "Dick" Wallace (3B), Dan Kennard (C), Sam Bennett (OF), Charles Blackwell (OF) and Jimmie Lyons (OF). According to Holway, Bill Gatewood and Lee Wade were the team's top two pitchers. In addition Jimmie Lyons pitched in at least one game for the Giants in 1918.

Lyons played several games for St. Louis before being drafted into the military along with numerous other black baseball stars.

America Goes to War

World War I officially started on July 28, 1914 as a European conflict. The United States officially entered World War I on April 6, 1917. Over the better part of the next three years the war effort would have a significant impact on both white and black baseball.

During the latter part of the 1918 season and before the start of the 1919 baseball season, a large number of black baseball players were drafted into the military due to World War I. The Indianapolis ABCs were the hardest hit of all the black teams in the country. They lost six of their top players (Oscar Charleston, Morten Clark, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, James Jeffries, Dave Malarcher and Russell Powell) to military service. Louis "Dicta" Johnson, who had been one of the best pitchers for Indianapolis for several seasons, voluntarily enlisted and was sent to Europe to fight. Some of the other top black ball players who were lost to the war effort were Jude Gans (Chicago American Giants), Jimmie Lyons (St. Louis Giants), Spottswood Poles (Lincoln Giants), Dick "Cannonball" Redding (Brooklyn Royal Giants), Louis Santop (Lincoln Giants) and Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware (Chicago American Giants).

Jimmie Lyons joined the military about August of 1918 and did not return to professional baseball until about September of 1919. During his tour of duty in the military, Jimmie Lyons was sent to Europe and played military baseball in the Allied Expeditionary Force League in Les Mans, France. It was while playing military baseball in Europe that Jimmie had the opportunity to

play against Ty Cobb's brother. Reportedly, Cobb's brother was quoted as saying that Jimmie Lyons was one of the best ball players he had ever seen including his brother. Supposedly the story about Ty Cobb's brother was told by Dave Malarcher in an interview he had with Charles Whitehead. This story also appears in James Riley's book Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Leagues.

Even though World War I officially ended in mid-November of 1918, it still took several months for many of the players to return back to the United States and receive their military discharges.

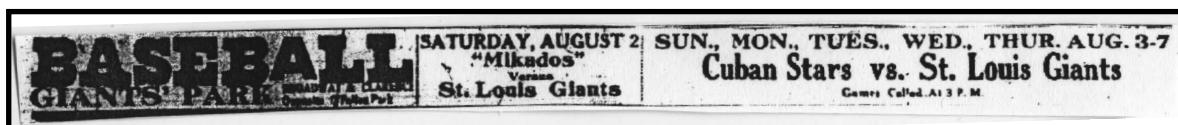
Many owners adapted to the problems caused by the war effort and fielded teams. Some teams ended their 1918 season early and restricted post season play. Most of the teams that played during the 1919 season played limited schedules and did not travel very far from their home base of operations. The top teams in the East during the 1919 season were the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars, Hilldale and the New York Lincoln Giants. The top teams in the West in 1919 were the Chicago American Giants, Chicago Giants, Cuban Stars (West), Dayton Marcos, Detroit Stars, Jewell's ABCs of Indianapolis and the St. Louis Giants.

Lyons Returns from the War

Current research has identified that Lyons went into the military sometime after the later part of July of 1918 when he was playing for the St. Louis Giants and returned home sometime before the first part of September of 1919.

Jimmie Lyons signed with St. Louis Giants after being released from the military. Records have been found of him playing for St. Louis in a game on September 9th and then in another game for St. Louis on September 11th.

The 1919 St. Louis Giants were managed on the field by team captain and starting second baseman Dick Wallace. St. Louis played their home games at Giants Park. Charlie Blackwell (OF) and Sam Bennett (OF) led the team in hitting. The pitching staff for the St. Louis Giants included Sidney Brooks, Fred Daniels, Bill Drake, John Finner, Bill Gatewood and W. Williams.



St. Louis Argus
08-01-19

Currently, only sixteen (16) box scores have been found for the St. Louis Giants 1919 season. They were 6-10 (.375) in these games. The St. Louis Giants are generally considered the sixth best team in the West in 1919. The Chicago American Giants and the Detroit Stars were the two best teams in the West in 1919.

According to research by John Holway, Jimmie Lyons also played briefly for the Chicago Giants during the 1919 season. The Chicago Giants were operated by Joe Green and were not considered one of the top teams in the West. The top players for Joe Green's Giants in 1919 were John Beckwith (C), Joe Green (OF), Horace Jenkins (OF) and Walter Ball (P). Holway has found box scores for 18 at bats for Jimmie playing with the Chicago Giants. Lyons went 8 for 14 for an amazing .571 batting average in these plate appearances.

Then sometime between the middle of September of 1919 and the first week of October, Jimmie moved to Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants. Foster's team also included Oscar Charleston, John Donaldson and Dave Malarcher who all three had also just returned from military service. Lyons appeared with Chicago in games on October 11th and October 12th.

Founding of the Negro National League

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

At the end of the meeting a "league" constitution was ratified and Rube Foster was elected as the President and C.I. Taylor Vice-President of the Negro National League.

Organize Base Ball League

Best Colored Players in the Country Included in Five Team League

Kansas City, Feb. 25—The National Negro Baseball League has been organized here, with Huber Foster, of Chicago as president. The constitution and by-laws of the league were written by Dave Wyatt, Indianapolis Ledger; Attorney Elmer Scott, Topeka, Kan.; Cary B. Lewis, Chicago Defender and Ellwood C. Knox, Indianapolis Freeman. The teams and players include:

Detroit Stars—Pete Hill, Bruce Petway, Frank Warfield, Edgar Wester Joe Hewitt, Mac Eggerston, Leroy Roberts, Henderson E. Boyd, Holland Richard Whitworth, Jimmie Lyons, Johnson Hill, Lotty Hill.

Kansas City—John Donaldson, Joe Mendez, Frank Blukol, Jackima Walmar, Rube Currie, Rodriguez, Portorizano, Sam Crawford, Wilbur Itogen, W. Harris, Baro.

St. Louis Giants—Tillie McAdoo, Dan Kenard, Charles Brooks, Charles Scott, Wm. Drake, Banbridge Felix Wallace, Charles Blackwell, Eddie Holt, John Timmer, Hill, American Giants—George Dixon, J.W. Brown, Leroy Grant, Elwood Do Ross, Robert Williams, David Malacher, J. E. Reese, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Williams, Richard Lundy, Christopher Torrenti, Edw. Gans.

Chicago Giants—Lawrence Simpson, Walter Bell, Lennel McJugal, Edward Jones, John Beckwith, William Green, Thurman Jennings, Frank Jeffries, Horace Jenkins, Joe Green, Turner Winston, Tom Clark.

Taylor's A. B. C.—James Jeffries, J. Taylor, Martin Clark, Russell Powell, Richard, William Webster, Oscar Clarkson, Ed Hale, Murray, William Dismukes, Decatur Johnson.

In an effort to deal with the issue of player contracts and in an attempt to make the new "league" as competitive as possible, Rube Foster made the following edicts:

1. Oscar Charleston was sent from the Chicago American Giants to the Indianapolis ABCs.
2. Sam Crawford went to the Kansas City Monarchs.
3. Dick Whitworth was sent to the Detroit Stars.
4. The Detroit Stars returned John Donaldson and Jose Mendez to the Kansas City Monarchs.
5. Jimmie Lyons was assigned to the Detroit Stars. The only rationale for this move was that Tenney Blount was a close personal friend of Rube Foster and Lyons would be a valuable addition to the Detroit Stars.

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

Afro-American
02-27-20

Andrew "Rube" Foster



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

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

Negro National League (1920)

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

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

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

Lyons Becomes the Batting Champion of the NNL

The Detroit Stars had been formed in 1919 by Terry Blount along with the help of Rube Foster. They played their first season as an independent team and were one of the original eight teams to play in the inaugural season of the Negro National League in 1920. The starting line-up for the 1920 Detroit Stars was as follows:

Detroit Stars (1920)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Edgar Wesley	OF	Jimmie Lyons
2B	Frank Warfield	OF	Pete Hill
SS	Joe Hewitt	OF	N. Moore
3B	Orville Riggins		
C	Bruce Petway	P	Bill Gatewood
			Bill Holland

The 1920 Detroit Stars were led by the hitting of Jimmie Lyons (.396), Charlie Hill (.338), Edgar Wesley (.287), Pete Hill (.281), Chick Harper (.280) and Frank Warfield (.281). Jimmie Lyons’ complete hitting statistics for the 1920 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1920	Detroit	59	227	64	86	15	5	8	46	21	.379	.595

(Note –The above statistics are for the Negro National League and post season.)

When the Negro National League season ended in mid-September, Jimmie Lyons had compiled a .396 batting average for the season. Some researchers credit Lyons .396 batting average as leading the Negro National League. Other researchers credit Cristobal Torriente (.411) with winning the batting title. Jimmie Lyons also led the "league" in stolen bases (with 21 or 22 stolen bases – depending on the researcher).

According to Negro League baseball researcher John Holway, Jimmie Lyons was the best player in the inaugural season of the Negro National League and placed as follows in the final list of leaders of Negro National League hitting statistics:

Category	Number	Place in Final Standings
Batting Average	.399	1 st
Homeruns	8	2 nd
Doubles	16	4 th
Triples	7	2 nd
Stolen Bases	22	2 nd

Detroit had a complete turnover in their pitching staff from 1919 to 1920. Gone were Sam Crawford, John Donaldson, Jose Mendez and Frank Wickware. They were replaced by Bill Gatewood (17-5), Bill Holland (12-7), Gifford McDonald (3-4), Gunboat Thompson (3-3), Webster McDonald (3-3), Dicta Johnson (2-1), Andy Cooper (1-2), Jimmie Lyons (1-1) and Chick Harper (0-1). Unfortunately for Detroit Stars management, the new staff couldn't live up to the performance of the 1919 starting rotation. The team's earned run average went from 2.88 in 1919 to 3.38 in 1920.

Western Circuit Negro National League			
BULLETIN			
AMERICAN GIANTS PARK 20TH ST. & WENTWORTH AV.	WASHINGTON PARK INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA	MAK PARK DETROIT, MICHIGAN	WESTWOOD FIELD DAYTON, OHIO
SUNDAY, APRIL 25 DODGER TRAINING A. O. OF INTERCITY ASSN vs. AMERICAN GIANTS	SUNDAY, APRIL 25 A. B. O.'S OF INDIANAPOLIS vs. LOUISVILLE GIANTS AT LOUISVILLE, KY. A. B. C.'S AT NASHVILLE, TENN., APRIL 26, 27, 28	SUNDAY, APRIL 25 NORTHWAY MOTOR CO. vs. DETROIT STARS	SUNDAY, APRIL 25 DAYTON GYNS vs. DAYTON MAROOS
SUNDAY, MAY 2 ROMEOS OF CHICAGO LEAGUE vs. AMERICAN GIANTS	SUNDAY, MAY 2 Two Games CHICAGO GIANTS OF WESTERN CIRCUIT N.H.L. vs. A. B. O.'S AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	SUNDAY, MAY 1 COWRERS ALL STARS vs. DETROIT STARS	SATURDAY, MAY 1 SUNDAY, MAY 2 ALL ITALIANS vs. DAYTON MAROOS
GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.	GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.	GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.	GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.
AMERICAN ASSN. PARK KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	GIANTS PARK ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI	CHICAGO GIANTS OF CHICAGO	CUBAN STARS OF HAVANA, CUBA
SUNDAY, APRIL 25 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF CITY LEAGUE vs. K. C. MONARCHS OF N. N. L.	SUNDAY, APRIL 25 SUBURBANS OF CITY LEAGUE vs. ST. LOUIS GIANTS	SUNDAY, APRIL 25 CHICAGO GIANTS vs. OIGEROS OF CITY LEAGUE	THE CUBAN STARS Will Arrive in the UNITED STATES Open at Indianapolis
Bookings Will Be Published In This Space Weekly	SUNDAY, MAY 2 ALL PROFESSIONALS vs. ST. LOUIS GIANTS	SUNDAY, MAY 2 Double Header CHICAGO GIANTS OF N. N. L. vs. A. B. O.'S OF N. N. L. AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	SUNDAY, MAY 9 TWO GAMES MONDAY, MAY 10 TUESDAY, MAY 11 WED., MAY 12 vs. A. B. O.'S
GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.	GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.	GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.	GAMES CALLED AT 3:00 P. M.

Detroit had a good season and ended the year with a 35-23 (.603) record in "league" play. They finished the inaugural Negro National League season in second place behind the Chicago American Giants (32-13).

Negro National League Bulletin (1920)

Schedule of Negro League Games

Towards the end of the 1920 season, Jimmie Lyons left the Detroit Stars and traveled back East to play for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants who were an associate member of the Negro National League. The Bacharach Giants along with the Brooklyn Royal Giants were considered the top two teams in the East in 1920. Atlantic City was led by the hitting of Dick Lundy (.344), Bill Pierce (.331), Elias "Country" Brown and Oliver "The Ghost" Marcell. The Bacharach Giants also had an impressive pitching staff that included Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Andrew "String Bean" Williams, Merven "Red" Ryan and Harold Treadwell. It was when he was playing for the Bacharach Giants that Lyons spiked and cut up John Beckwith while sliding into second base.

In October Jimmie Lyons signed with the St. Louis Giants for their post season schedule. He played in at least seven exhibition games for the Giants during the month of October. The highlight of their post season was a three game series against the St. Louis Cardinals who had finished the National League season in fifth place. The Giants sent John Finner to the mound in game one and came away with a 5-4 victory. The St. Louis Cardinals rebounded in game two and shut out the Giants by a score of 5-0. The Cardinals also shut out the Giants in game three by a score of 6-0.

On October 16th Lyons also appeared in an Indianapolis ABCs uniform for an exhibition game.

Jimmie Signs with the Chicago American Giants

In December of 1920 Rube Foster traded Jude Gans (OF), Bill Riggins (SS) and William Force pitcher to the Detroit Stars for Jimmie Lyons who was coming off perhaps the best year of his career. Lyons was a perfect fit for Rube Foster's style of play. He hit for average, got on base, was an excellent bunter, played solid defense and had blazing speed. Not only did the Detroit Stars get the short end of the deal, but Jude Gans never reported to Detroit. Instead of going to the Stars Gans signed with the New York Lincoln Giants as the team's player-manager.

Rube Foster Takes His Team to Florida

In January of 1921 after Rube Foster had returned from his vacation in Hot Springs (AR) "taking the water cure," he took his team to Palm Beach, Florida. The purpose of the trip was two-fold. First, it enabled his players to play competitive baseball and start getting in shape for the 1921 Negro National League season and second, it provided the players with a good source of winter income. Once in Florida, Foster and his players represented the Royal Poinciana Hotel in the Florida Hotel League. Games were played in January and February before the players returned north to prepare for the regular season.

Rube Foster's Royal Poinciana Hotel team starting line-up for the 1921 Florida Hotel League season was as follows:

Royal Poinciana Hotel (1921)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Leroy Grant	OF	John Beckwith
2B	Bingo De Moss	OF	Jimmie Lyons
SS	Bobby Williams	OF	Frank Warfield
3B	Dave Malarcher	OF	Jelly Gardner
C	Poindexter Williams	P	Dave Brown

Besides his ace pitcher Dave Brown, Rube's pitching staff included Ping Gardner, Jack Marshall, Juan Mirabel and Tom Williams. The competition for the Royal Poinciana was the Breakers Hotel. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd was the player-manager for the Breakers team. Lloyd's team

included Eddie Douglas (1B), Bill Francis (3B/2B), Blainey Hall (OF) and Louis Santop (C). Smokey Joe Williams, Phil Cockrell and Roy Roberts were the top three pitchers for the Breakers.

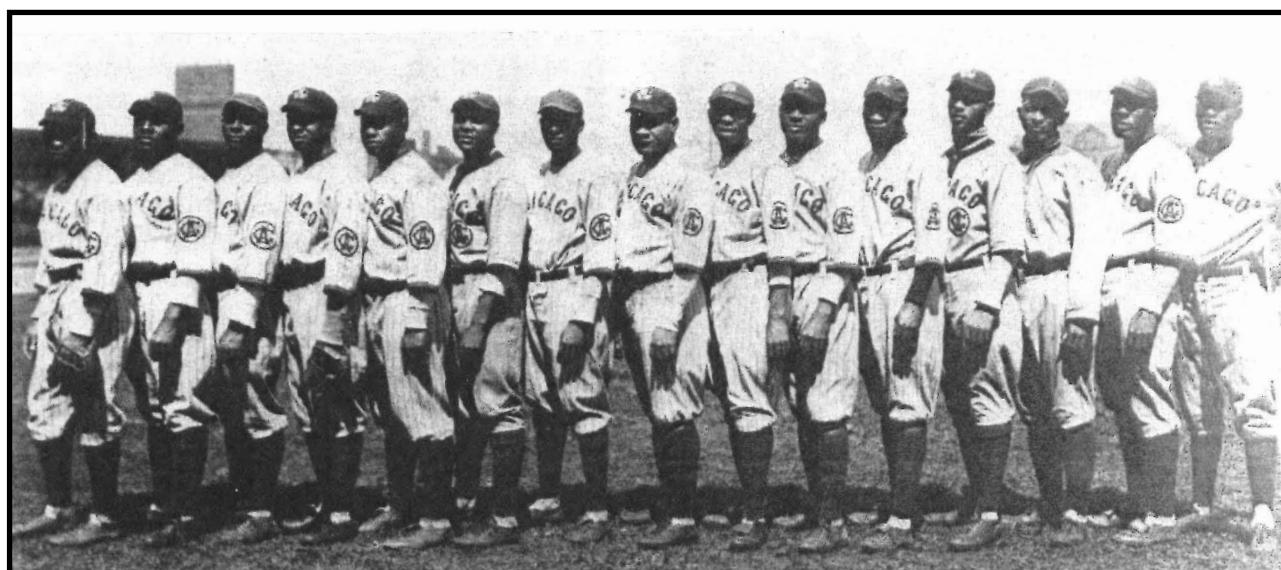
Newspaper accounts of Florida Hotel League games for the 1921 season have been difficult to find. Only five (5) box scores have been found so far for the 1921 season in Florida. The Royal Poinciana Hotel got off to a fast start when the season opened. They won the first game from the five box scores that have been found with a 7-0 shutout pitched by Jack Marshall in late January. Foster's crew also took game two of the located box scores which was played in early February. The game turned into a 15-7 slugfest with the Royal Poinciana club coming out on top. The Breakers Hotel came back to win the next three games.

Rube Foster's team finished up their winter season and spring training in Florida about mid-March. When the American Giants left Florida, they played their way back to Chicago making stops in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas.

American Giants Repeat as Negro National League Champions

The Chicago American Giants opened their 1921 season with a three game series against the Kansas City Monarchs. The first game of the series was played on May 7th at Schorling Park in Chicago. Had it not been for three errors in game two that cost Chicago unearned three runs, the American Giants would have swept their first series of the season. An interesting side note to their 3-1 loss to the Monarchs was that Tom Johnson (starting pitcher for Chicago) pitched a one-hitter.

The Chicago American Giants started the 1921 Negro National League season just like they ended the season before; they won ball games. This was especially true for those teams who visited the Windy City. The American Giants weren't quite as successful on the road during the 1921 season. Chicago had a weak hitting team but overcame this to have an excellent season. Foster's success during the season was achieved by emphasizing team speed, good defense, excellent pitching and his exemplary management skills.



Chicago American Giants (1921)

(Left to right – John Reese, Otis Starks, Poindexter Williams, **Floyd “Jelly” Gardner**, George Dixon, **Jimmie Lyons**, **Dave Malarcher**, **Cristobal Torriente**, Jack Marshall, Jim Brown, Bingo De Moss, Tom Williams, **Dave Brown**, Leroy Grant and Tom Johnson.)

The team struggled with their hitting all season, so Foster had to rely on manufacturing runs with team speed and smart baseball strategy. Only Cristobal Torriente who hit .352 (down 59 points from .411 the season before) and Jimmie Lyons (.301) had good seasons at the plate. Lyons complete batting statistics for the 1921 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	Chicago	81	286	60	86	6	5	6	43	30	.301	.420

Jimmie Lyons' thirty (30) stolen bases tied him with Bernardo Baro for third place for the Negro National League stolen base title right behind Joe Hewitt (33) and Oscar Charleston (32).

Fortunately for Rube Foster he had an excellent pitching staff. Chicago American Giants' pitchers responded to their lack of runs support by allowing their opponents even fewer base hits and runs. Dave Brown (.206) and Jack Marshall (.215) had the two lowest opponent batting averages in the "league" during the 1921 season. The pitching staff for Rube Foster's American Giants included Tom Williams (15-7), Bill Holland (13-9), Dave Brown (11-3), Jack Marshall (8-3) and Tom Johnson (7-7). Cristobal Torriente was also a spot starter and compiled a pitching won-loss record of 6-1 for the season. Otis Starks, Sam Streeter, Willie Gisentaner and Red Luther also pitched for the American Giants in 1921.

Lyons Takes a Terrible Fall

The biggest set back for the Chicago American Giants during the 1921 season occurred when the team was in Cincinnati to play the Cuban Stars at Redland Field. While at the team hotel, Jimmie Lyons fell 25 feet down an open elevator shaft. According to newspaper reports, he was back in the lineup in only four days. Research does support this newspaper report. Our research has revealed that Jimmie played against the Cuban Stars on July 21st and then was not back in the lineup until August 3rd in a game against the Columbus Buckeyes. It was amazing that Jimmie was not killed in the fall and even more amazing was the fact that he was able to continue playing professional baseball. Even though he was able to continue playing baseball, he was never physically close to the same after the accident from this researcher's perspective.

During the 1921 season the Chicago American Giants played several games against their "old" opponents from the Chicago City League. Some of these teams were Briscoe Motors, Chicago Magnets, Logan Squares, the Progressives, the Pyotts and Singer Sewing Machines. According to Chicago newspaper reports the Chicago American Giants were very successful against their "white" semi-professional opponents. Our research has found box scores for five games that Foster's American Giants played against their Chicago City League opponents. The Chicago American Giants won all five of these games.

Chicago Wins their Second Straight Title

At the end of the regular season, the Chicago American Giants had repeated as Negro National League champions. The final Negro National League standings for the 1921 season were as follows:

Negro National League (1921)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	64	42-22	.656
Kansas City Monarchs	81	50-31	.617
St. Louis Giants	68	40-28	.588
Detroit Stars	64	32-32	.500
Indianapolis ABCs	73	35-38	.479
Cincinnati Cubans	68	29-39	.426
Columbus Buckeyes	63	25-38	.397
Chicago Giants	42	10-32	.238

The Bacharach Giants were an associate member of the Negro National League in 1921 and finished the season with a very respectable record of 29-19 (.578) in games against “league” opponents.

Negro League researchers differ on the Chicago American Giants won-loss record for the 1921 season. The records presented previously represent the research of Larry Lester and Dick Clark. Research by Gary Ashwill and Patrick Rock credits the Chicago American Giants with a record of 44-22-2 (.662) in games against Negro National League opponents and 55-28-4 (.655) in games against all levels of competition. According to research by John Holway the Chicago American Giants had a won-loss record of 50-27 (.650) for the 1921 season and Paul Debono credits Chicago with a 57-29-1 (.663) record. It is important to note that Holway and Debono include games against all levels of competition in their records.

After the regular season Rube Foster took his Chicago American Giants team back East in late September to play two championship series against the two top teams (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale) in the East. The Chicago American Giants opened their first series against the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants on September 30th in New York City.

A summary of these two championship series is as follows:

Chicago American Giants vs Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1921)

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	New York City	Sept 30 th	Tie	1-1	-	-
2	Harrison (NJ)	Oct 1 st	Atlantic City	4-0	Nip Winters	Tom Williams
3	New York City	Oct 2 nd	Chicago	3-1	Dave Brown	Dick Redding
4	New York City	Oct 16 th	Chicago	6-3	Dave Brown	Dick Redding

(Note – some researchers report the score in game two as 4-3.)

Chicago won the series two games to one for Atlantic City with one game being tied.

Chicago American Giants vs Hilldale (1921)

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 4 th	Chicago	5-2	Bill Holland	Pud Flournoy
2	Philadelphia	Oct 5 th	Hilldale	4-3	Phil Cockrell	Dave Brown
3	Wilmington (DE)	Oct 10 th	Chicago	5-2	Bill Holland	Dick Whitworth
4	Philadelphia	Oct 12 th	Tie	5-5	-	-
5	Philadelphia	Oct 13 th	Hilldale	15-5	Phil Cockrell	Dave Brown
6	Philadelphia	Oct 18 th	Hilldale	7-1	Dick Whitworth	Bill Holland

Four box scores have been found with Jimmie Lyons in the line-up for the Chicago American Giants in their Eastern “championship series.” In these games Jimmie went 6 for 15 for a .400 batting average.

Hilldale won their series with Chicago three games to two for the American Giants with one game ending in a tie. Hilldale was crowned the “Colored Champion.”

Chicago Starts the Season with a Championship

Rube Foster and his Chicago American Giants started their 1922 season with a trip to New Orleans (LA) to conduct their spring training for the upcoming 1922 Negro National League season. In late March and early April the Chicago American Giants played the New Orleans Crescent Stars in a seven (7) game series for the "Colored Championship of the South." The American Giants took the series and the title of "Colored Champions of the South" by winning six of the seven games played. Even though they lost six games, the Crescent Stars were in each game until the very end. Foster's squad won their six games by the scores of 3-2, 13-12, 5-4, 6-3, 4-2 and 5-4.

The Chicago American Giants also played the Cuban Stars during their spring training in New Orleans. Chicago won four of the seven games they played against their Latin opponents.

Most of Foster's roster from their 1921 Negro National League season including Jimmie Lyons returned for the 1922 season. The only major change to the starting line-up was that John Beckwith was signed away from the Chicago Giants to replace Dave Malarcher at third base. Malarcher had been instructed by his doctor to sit out the 1922 season because of a torn ligament located near his heart.

Other than John Beckwith (.358) none of the other starting players had exceptionally good seasons at the plate. Even their super star hitter Cristobal Torriente fell off as he batted a mere .289 which was only a mediocre season for him. Some of Chicago's other starters batting averages during the 1922 season were Jim Brown (.268), Leroy Grant (.267), Jimmie Lyons (.263), Jelly Gardner (.256) and George Dixon (.250).

Even though Rube's starting line-up on the field was relatively stable, the same could not be said for his pitching staff. Gone were Jack Marshall who left Chicago to go to Detroit, Tom Johnson could not play because of health issues and Tom Williams went to the Lincoln Giants. Dave Brown (16-7) was the only starting pitcher from the 1921 staff to return to the starting rotation for the 1922 season. To rebuild his starting rotation, Rube Foster signed Ed "Huck" Rile (9-4) from the disbanded Columbus Buckeyes, Dick Whitworth (11-10) from Hilldale and Cuban star pitcher Juan "El Mulo" Padron (14-11). Aubrey Owens, who Foster signed away from the New Orleans Caulfield Ads when the team was in New Orleans for spring training, also pitched for the Chicago during 1922.

**KANSAS CITY
HERE AGAINST
FOSTER SUNDAY**

**Same Two Clubs Pry Lid Off
League Season Saturday;
Will Be Record Crowd**

GIANTS Gardner, rf. De Moss, 2b. Lyons, lf. Torriente, c. J. Brown, c. Jeffries or Malarcher, 3b. Beckwith, 2b. Williams, ss. D. Brown or Rile, p.	MONARCHS Hawkins, 1b. Anderson, 2b. Moore, ss. Portuondo, 3b. Donaldson, cf. McNair, lf. Carr, rf. Duncan, c. Rogan, Ldger, = Curry, Bell or Gleasantane, p.
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Chicago kicked off their 1922 Negro National League season at South Side Park in Chicago on May 6th with a 5-1 loss to the Kansas City Monarchs.

The season started off very competitive. Indianapolis went 11-1 in their first 12 games and showed they were going to be a force that would have to be reckoned with during the season. By the first part of July it was a four team race with Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis and Kansas City all in contention for the pennant. The season was hotly contested the rest of the year.

Like in years past, Rube Foster's team won games with strong pitching, timely hitting and team speed. When it was all over, the Chicago American Giants won the Negro National League title for the third straight year. They finished the season with a record of 36-23 (.610) just ahead of the Indianapolis ABCs (46-33) and the Kansas City Monarchs (46-33).

The final standings for the 1922 Negro National League were as follows:

Negro National League (1922)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Chicago American Giants	59	36-23	.610
Indianapolis ABCs	79	46-33	.582
Kansas City Monarchs	79	46-33	.582
St. Louis Stars	61	35-26	.574
Detroit Stars	75	43-32	.573
Pittsburgh Keystones	37	16-21	.432
Cuban Stars	50	19-31	.380
Cleveland Tate Stars	46	17-29	.70

During the 1922 season the Baltimore Black Sox (12-10-1), Bacharach Giants of New York (26-35-1) and Hilldale (13-21) were all associate members of the Negro National League.

While the Chicago American Giants had the highest winning percentage (.610) in Negro National League games, the Indianapolis ABCs (46 wins), Kansas City Monarchs (46 wins) and Detroit Stars (43 wins) all had more victories in “league” games. Chicago won 36 games against “league” opponents.

Chicago American Giants win Colored World’s Championship

After the regular 1922 season, there was no doubt that the Chicago American Giants were the best team in the West and the Bacharach Giants of New York were considered one of the top teams in the East. The two teams met in New York City in September to begin a series that would crown a “Colored World’s Champion.” New York got off to a fast start by taking the first two games of the series.

The two teams travelled to Chicago to play game three which was played at Southside Park which was located north of 39th Street (Pershing Road) and between South Wentworth Avenue and South Princeton Avenue in Chicago.



Southside Park
Home of the Chicago American Giants

Chicago came back behind the pitching of Dave Brown and won game three by a score of 3-2.

Game four was classic Rube Foster baseball. With the American Giants down by a score of 3-2 in the seventh inning, Leroy Grant and Cristobal Torriente walked. The next batter up was pinch hitter Johnny Reese who beat out an infield hit to load the bases. Bingo De Moss then bunted the ball down the first base line and as Bacharach Giants pitcher was fielding the ball, two runs scored. Jimmie Lyons followed with another bunt that scored a run. In the eighth inning with runners on second and third, Bingo De Moss laid down a perfect bunt that allowed both runners to score. The American Giants scored five runs on three bunts to win the game by a score of 7-3 and tie the series.

Game five of the series was without a doubt the most exciting game to have ever been played in “Colored Championship” or Negro League World Series history. Each team had back to back victories. New York had won games one and two, while Chicago won games three and four.

Huck Rile took the mound for the American Giants and Harold Treadwell was the starting pitcher for the Bacharach Giants. Rile pitched six strong scoreless innings before giving way to Dave Brown in the seventh. Treadwell likewise had pitched six scoreless innings. The game was now in the hands of Brown and Treadwell. They hooked up for a pitching duel that went into the bottom of the 20th inning with neither team having scored a run. Treadwell had still been perfect on the mound and Dave Brown had pitched 14 innings of shutout innings in relief. In the bottom of the 20th inning, Torriente walked and was sacrificed to second by Bobby Williams. Dave Malarcher drove in Torriente with the only run of the day. After a 20 inning pitching battle, the Chicago American Giants had a 1-0 victory and another “Colored Championship.” A sad side note to the game is that New York pitcher Harold Treadwell had pitched 19 innings of shutout ball before giving up the lone run of the game in the 20th inning.

Chicago had come from two down to win three straight games to lay claim to the championship. Dave Malarcher led the way for Chicago in the series against the Bacharach Giants of New York. He got up to bat 11 times and collected 4 hits for a .364 batting average.

A summary of the 1922 “Colored Championship of the World” series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Chicago	Sept 12 th	New York	5-4	Nip Winters	Juan Padrone
2	Chicago	Sept 13 th	New York	3-2	Harold Treadwell	Aubrey Owens
3	Chicago	Sept 14 th	Chicago	3-2	Dave Brown	Dick Redding
4	Chicago	Sept 15 th	Chicago	7-3	Dick Whitworth	Speedboy Roberts
5	Chicago	Sept 16 th	Chicago	1-0	Dave Brown	Harold Treadwell

The Chicago American Giants also played an exhibition game during the 1922 post season against a Major League All Stars team that included Babe Ruth and Jack Quinn. In addition the American Giants played two games against the Major-Minor League All Stars with Dickie Kerr.

During the 1922 season like they had done for so many years in the past, the Chicago American Giants played a significant number of games against independent and semipro teams. These games were very lucrative for Negro League teams and without them they could not have financially survived. Some of the top “non-league” teams that the American Giants played in 1922 were House of David, Logan’s Square, Marquette Park, Pontiac and Rogers Park.

According to Negro League researcher Paul Debano, the Chicago American Giants ended the season with a record of 57-29-1 in games against all levels of competition.

Formation of Eastern Colored League

Before the start of the 1923 season, Ed Bolden who owned the Hilldale team formed the Eastern Colored League. The “new” league dramatically impacted baseball in the West. Now with two formidable leagues, players had significantly more options as to where they could play.

Numerous players left their teams in the West and headed East for more lucrative contracts. Some of the top players who jumped to the Eastern Colored League for higher salaries were Dave Brown, Oscar Charleston, Biz Mackey, Ben Taylor and Frank Warfield. Jimmie Lyons stayed with Rube Foster and Chicago.

In February of 1923 Rube Foster traveled back East and visited Philadelphia, Atlantic City, New York City and Washington, D.C. His goal was to meet with Ed Bolden who had been instrumental in forming the Eastern Colored League and Nat Strong who controlled the booking of black baseball in the East.

Lyons Returns to Chicago

After winning three Negro National League championships in a row and being the reigning “Colored World’s Champion,” there was no place for the Chicago American Giants to go but down. Before the start of the season, the American Giants changed dramatically. First they lost George Dixon who had been a main stay on offense for the previous six seasons. Also gone from the roster were three of their starting pitchers from their 1922 championship team. Dave Brown, Juan Padrone and Dick Whitworth did not return to Chicago for the 1923 season.



**Schorling Park (Southside Park)
Home of the Chicago American Giants**

Rube Foster started the Chicago American Giants 1923 season by conducting spring training in Texas. In 1923 Jimmie Lyons returned to the Chicago American Giants outfield that included Cristobal Torriente, Jelly Gardner and himself. Foster also had a very strong infield that included John Beckwith (1B), Bingo DeMoss (2B), Bobby Williams (SS) and Dave Malarcher (3B).

Rube Foster got good hitting from Cristobal Torriente (.387), Henry Kenyon (.304), John Beckwith (.304) and Dave Malarcher (.304) during the 1923 season. Jimmie Lyon had an off season at the plate in 1923 with a .270 batting average for the 1923 season.

The Chicago American Giants excelled in stealing bases in 1923. The team's leaders in stolen bases for the season were Floyd "Jelly" Gardner (22), Dave Malarcher (14), Bingo De Moss (13), Jimmie Lyons (13) and Cristobal Torriente (12).

Even though the starting pitchers had good won-loss records in 1923, Chicago's pitching as an entire team which was usually the strength and salvation of the American Giants was considered a glaring weakness. Foster's pitching staff in 1923 was comprised of players well past their prime, young flash in the pan players who didn't produce and journeymen pitchers. Rube Foster had been able to deal with sub par pitching in the past but not this time.

Ed "Huck" Rile was the only holdover starting pitcher from the 1922 team. The starting rotation for the 1923 season was Ed "Huck" Rile (15-7), Tom Williams (9-1), Aubrey Owens (8-3), Lewis Woolfolk (6-5), Bill Foster (4-2) and Jack Marshall (2-6). Luther Farrell, George Harney, Harry Kenyon, Dicta Johnson, Curtis Ricks and Fulton Strong also saw time on the mound for the American Giants in 1923.

Disaster struck the Chicago American Giants early in the season when a section of grandstand collapsed with 1,500 fans in the stands. Twenty-eight people had to be taken to the hospital. There were no fatalities. City officials surmised that the fans swaying back and forth and jumping up and down was too much for the structural integrity of the grand stand.

One of the highlights of the season for Chicago was a game played in late May against the Kansas City Monarchs. The game drew 17,000 fans to witness the 5-4 victory for Chicago.



When the 1923 Negro National League season reached its end, the Chicago American Giants had been dethroned by the Kansas City Monarchs. The Chicago American Giants finished the season in second place in the final "league" standings with a record of 39-24 (.619), while the Kansas City Monarchs went 54-32 (.628). The American Giants had a good season in 1923; however, the Monarchs just had a better one.

Not only did the Chicago American Giants lose the Negro National League title, but they were also defeated by Pyotts ("white" team that featured ex-Major Leaguer Dolly Gray) in the Chicago City League championship series.

After the regular season the Chicago American Giants played a three game series against the Detroit Tigers of the American League. To bolster their hitting attack, Rube added Oscar Charleston to his team in the first two games of the series before Oscar went to Cuba with Cristobal Torriente to play winter ball. The series was played from October 20th to October 22nd at South Side Park in Chicago. The first game ended in a 5-5 tie, the Detroit Tigers won the second game 7-1 and the American Giants won the final game 8-6.

Lyons is Released by the Chicago American Giants

The 1923 Chicago American Giants season had been a dismal failure from the perspective of team owner Andrew “Rube” Foster. Rube had always been able to put a positive spin that presented his team as a “champion” or at the very least as very successful even though the facts might not support his position. There was no way Foster could “sugar coat” the team’s performance in 1923.

Knowing he needed to make major changes to his team, Rube made two significant changes to the roster before the start of spring training in Texas. First, he sold John Beckwith’s contract to the Homestead Grays. Then Foster made the decision not to even invite Jimmie Lyons to spring training. Lyons’ release came as no surprise because he had never really been the same since he fell down the hotel elevator shaft in Cincinnati in 1921. In addition Dicta Johnson, Harry Kenyon, Jack Marshall and Fulton Strong were also not given a chance to earn a roster spot.

According to the research team of Larry Lester and Dick Clark, Jimmie Lyons did appear in one game for the Chicago American Giants on May 30th against the Kansas City Monarchs. He played right field but did not have an official at bat in the game. Shortly after the game he was released by Chicago for the second time in the season.

Without a team or employer, Jimmie Lyons looked no further than his old teammate Ben Taylor. Lyons and Taylor had played together with the Indianapolis ABCs in 1915. In 1923 Ben Taylor helped organize the Washington Potomacs. The Potomacs played the 1923 season as an independent and joined the Eastern Colored League for the 1924 season.

Joining Ben Taylor in Washington, D.C. besides Jimmie Lyons (OF) were veteran ball players Elias “Country” Brown (OF), Wayne Carr (P), Mack Eggleston (C), George Shively (OF), Chaney White (OF) and Andrew “String Bean” Williams (P). Unfortunately for Ben Taylor most of his ball players were well past their prime.

As a team the Washington Potomac had a .257 team batting average for the season. According to John Holway the top hitters for the 1924 Potomacs were George Shively (.368), Country Brown (.333), Ben Taylor (.319), John Hamilton (.289) and Chaney White (.284). Unfortunately their pitching staff let them down. Without a real ace on the staff, the Washington Potomacs pitchers simply gave up more runs than the hitters drove in. The starting rotation for the Potomacs included Red Grier (7-8), Lewis Hampton (6-10), Omer Newsome (4-4), Andrew Williams (2-3) and Wayne Carr (1-5).

The Washington Potomacs struggled all season and ended the 1924 Eastern Colored League in next to last place in the final “league” standings with a record of 21-38 (.356). Hilldale won the Eastern Colored League title with a record of 47-26 (.644).

Jimmie Lyons also reportedly played briefly for the Cleveland Browns of the Negro National League in 1924. The Cleveland Browns were formed in 1924 from the remnants of the disbanded Cleveland Tate Stars and were managed by National Baseball Hall of Fame great, Sol White. The Browns played their home games at Tate Field in Cleveland. The team was a mixture of aging veterans well past their prime and young rookies. Jaybird Ray (.369), Willie Miles (.348) and Vic Harris (.287) were the team’s top hitters. At least 15 pitchers saw action during the 1924 season. In their short tenure (1924-1925) in the Negro National League, they were a second division team and finished the 1924 season with a record of 14-29 (.326) in “league” play.

Long Period of Inactivity

Current research indicates that the 1924 season was Jimmie Lyons last as a fulltime player. However, Jimmie does appear on the pre-season roster for the 1925 Chicago American Giants of the Negro National League but was not with the team when the regular season started.

Very little is known about what Jimmie Lyons was doing from 1925 to 1932.

At the age of 42 Jimmie Lyons was on the playing roster and appears in a team photo of Cole's American Giants at the start of the 1932 season.

The status of professional baseball in Chicago was very uncertain going into the 1932 season. After Rube Foster's death on December 9, 1930, the status of the ownership and management was in a constant state of uncertainty. The Chicago American Giants under the ownership of Charles Bidwell did not even field a team for the 1931 Negro National League. To make things even more confusing J.L. Wilkinson, owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, was reportedly considering moving his team to Chicago but couldn't agree with the owners of South Side Park on a long term lease. The stadium owners were trying to sell the ball park and the most they would offer Wilkinson was a two year lease.



Cole's American Giants (1932)

(Top row left to right – **Nat Rogers**, Kermit Dial, Walter "Steel Arm" Davis, **Willie "Bill" Foster**, **Norman "Turkey" Stearnes**, and **Alex Radcliff**. Middle row left to right – E.C. "Pops" Turner, Clarence "Spoon" Palm, James "Sandy" Thompson, **Dave Malarcher**, Johnny Hines, John Dixon and Walter Harper. Bottom row left to right – Norman Cross, Jack Marshall, Willie Powell, Melvin "Putt" Powell, **Jimmie Lyons** and Luther McDonald.)

In addition to Wilkinson, both Abe Saperstein and Robert A. Cole expressed an interest in owning a team in Chicago. Robert A. Cole, a successful black business man from Chicago, won out and put up the money to fund the team. When Cole took over what was left of the team he hired Dave Malarcher as the team's manager and brought in Horace Hall to run the business side of the team.

Currently, only one game has been found with Jimmie making an "official" appearance in a game for the American Giants in 1932. This was on May 23rd when Lyons entered the game as a pinch hitter. Jimmie did not get on base. The most likely scenario for Jimmie Lyons being on the team is that he was a coach and for one reason or another actually got into a game.

Jimmie Lyons Signs on to Manage the Louisville Black Caps

When the Negro National League folded prior to the start of the 1932 baseball season, this left by default the Negro Southern League as a "Major League" in black baseball. The 1932 Negro Southern League included the following teams:

Negro Southern League (1932)

	Games	Record	Pct.
Cole's Chicago American Giants	41	34-7	.829
Monroe Monarchs	40	33-7	.825
Nashville Elite Giants	39	24-15	.615
Montgomery Grey Sox	40	22-18	.550
Memphis Red Sox	46	24-22	.522
Little Rock Black Travelers (Grays)	6	3-3	.500
Louisville Black Caps	30	13-17	.433
Indianapolis ABCs	33	14-19	.424
Birmingham Black Barons	19	8-11	.421
Atlanta Black Crackers	8	1-7	.125
Cleveland Cubs	5	0-5	.000
Kansas City Monarchs (Associate Member)	14	9-5	.643

Note: The Alcoa Aluminum Sluggers, Columbus Turfs, Knoxville Giants and Lexington Hard Hitters also played briefly in the 1932 Negro Southern League.

Jimmie Lyons Manages the Black Caps

Louisville (KY) had a rich history in black baseball and fielded a team called the "Louisville Black Caps" for the 1932 Negro Southern League season. The Black Caps were operated by William Scott and played their homes games at Parkway Field which was also the home of the "white" Louisville Colonels of the American Association. Jim Brown started the season off as the team's player-manager.

The Louisville Black Caps had a weak hitting starting line-up that included Jim Brown (OF), Lenon Henderson (3B), Granville Lyons (1B), William "Red" Mc Neil (OF), Charlie Petway (C) and Felton Snow (OF/3B). On paper they should have had a fairly good pitching staff. Over the season the Black Caps featured the following starting pitchers: Sam Bankhead, Richard "Speedball" Cannon, Ernest "Spoon" Carter, Willie Gisentaner, Andy "Pullman" Porter and Lamar Potter. Unfortunately for Louisville, the pitchers didn't perform much better than the hitters during the 1932 season. Hippolito Arenas, A.C. Neely, Claude Rhodes and Jim Thurman also pitched for the Black Caps in 1932. In the thirty (30) Negro Southern League games they played, Louisville used at least ten (10) different pitchers.

When the team got off to a slow start Jimmie Lyons was hired to take Jim Brown's place as the manager of the Black Caps. Lyons took over the reigns of the team in about mid to late May.

Under the management of Brown and Lyons, the Louisville Black Caps posted a mediocre record of 13-17 (.433) against Negro Southern League opponents when the team folded about July 24th. No records are available for the games against non-league opponents.



**Parkway Field
Louisville, KY**

Home of the Louisville Black Caps

When the Louisville franchise disbanded, it was replaced by the Columbus Turf. The Turfs only lasted less than two months before folding.

Lyons Returns to Chicago

Sometime after the 1932 season, Jimmie Lyons went to work in the front office for Robert Cole who owned and operated the Chicago American Giants. Cole had made his money through the Metropolitan Assurance Company (insurance company) that he had founded. Robert Cole did not have a baseball background and needed help when it came to baseball operations. Jimmie Lyons was the answer to Robert Cole's problem. Lyons' role in Cole's American Giants organization was that of a front office advisor.

When Horace Hall took over the American Giants in 1936, Jimmie Lyons was retained as the team's front office advisor. It is unclear how long Jimmie held this position.

In addition to being a part of the Chicago American Giants organization, Jimmie Lyons was a regular participant at old-timers games and celebration events honoring the Negro Leagues.

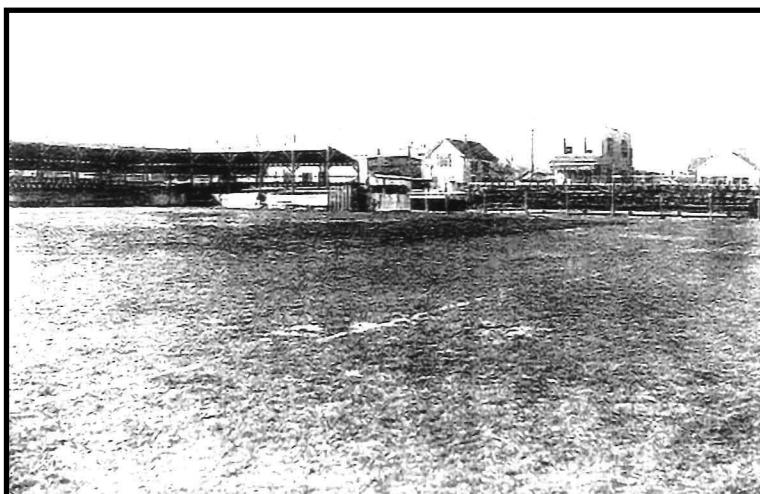
Passing of a Negro League Legend

James Henry "Jimmie" Lyons passed away on October 01, 1963 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Some researchers list his death date as October 10th.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1909	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
	Chicago Union Giants	Lakeshore League
1910	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
	Minneapolis Keystones	Independent
	St. Louis Giants	Independent
	Illinois Giants	Independent
1910-1911	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1911	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
1912	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1913	West Baden Sprudels	Independent
	French Lick Plutos	Independent
1914	Chicago Giants	Independent
	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent
1915	Indianapolis ABCs	Independent
1915-1916	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1916	Bowser's ABCs	Independent
1917	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
	St. Louis Giants	Independent
	Chicago Giants	Independent
	Jewell's ABCs	Independent
	All Nations	Independent
1918	U.S. Army	Allied Expeditionary Force League (Europe)
1918	Indianapolis ABCs	Independent
1918-1919	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1919	Chicago Giants	Independent
1919	Chicago American Giants	Independent
1920	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Negro National League (Associate Member)
1921-1924	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League
1924	Washington Potomacs	Eastern Colored League
	Cleveland Browns	Negro National League
1925	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League (Pre-Season)
1932	Louisville Black Caps	Negro Southern League
	Cole's American Giants	Negro Southern League



Kuebler Park

Home of the St. Louis Giants

Winter Leagues and Post Season Play

Year	Team	League
1911	New York Lincoln Giants	Post Season Play (October)
	New York Lincoln Giants	Four Game Series vs Jersey City Skeeters
	New York Lincoln Giants	Series vs Major-Minor League All Stars
		w/ Walter Johnson and Honus Wagner
	New York Lincoln Giants	Game vs All Star Squad w/ Eddie Plank
1912	Fe	Cuban League
1913	Indianapolis ABCs	Post Season Play (October)
1914	New York Lincoln Giants	Post Season Play (October)
	New York Lincoln Giants	Two Games vs Philadelphia Phillies (NL)
	Indianapolis ABCs	Post Season Play (October and November)
1915	St. Louis Giants	Post Season Play (October)
	Indianapolis ABCs	Two Game Series vs Minor League All Stars
	Indianapolis ABCs	Two Game Series vs Ownie Bush's All Stars
	Indianapolis ABCs	Post Season Play (October and November)
	Indianapolis ABCs	Three Game Series vs Major-Minor League All Stars
		American Series (Cuba)
1915-16	Chicago American Giants	Post Season Barnstorming Tour
	Chicago American Giants	Two Game Series vs West All Pros (Oct)
	Chicago American Giants	Seven Game Series vs Pantages
	Chicago American Giants	Game vs Federal League All Stars (Dec)
1916	Chicago American Giants	Five Game Series vs Portland (PCL)
	Chicago American Giants	Game vs Seattle (PCL)
	Royal Poinciana	Florida Hotel League
	St. Louis Giants	Post Season Play (October)
1917	Breakers Hotel Bulldogs	Florida Hotel League
	New York Lincoln Giants	Pre-Season Play (February)
	Indianapolis ABCs	Game vs Ownie Bush's All Stars
	Indianapolis ABCs	Double Header vs All Professionals
1919	Chicago American Giants	Post Season Play (October)
1920	St. Louis Giants	Post Season Play (October)
	St. Louis Giants	Three Game Series vs St. Louis Cardinals
	Indianapolis ABCs	Post Season Play (October)
1921	Royal Poinciana Hotel	Florida Hotel League
	Chicago American Giants	Four Game Championship Series vs Atlantic City
	Chicago American Giants	Six Game Championship Series vs Hilldale
	Chicago American Giants	Post Season Play (October)
	Chicago American Giants	Double Header vs Tesreau Bears
1922	Chicago American Giants	Seven Game Series vs New Orleans Crescent Stars
	Chicago American Giants	Seven Game Series vs Cuban Stars
	Chicago American Giants	Five Game Championship Series vs Atlantic City
	Chicago American Giants	Game vs Major League All Stars (w/ Babe Ruth)
	Chicago American Giants	Three Game Exhibition Series vs Detroit Tigers (Sept)
	Chicago American Giants	Two Game Exhibition Series vs Detroit Tigers (Oct/Nov)
	Chicago American Giants	Game vs Midwest League All Stars
	Chicago American Giants	Two Games vs Major-Minor League All Stars
1923	Chicago American Giants	Three Game Exhibition Series vs Detroit Tigers (Oct)

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1910	St. Louis	21	68	10	18	2	2	0	7	16	.265	.353
	Minnesota	2	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	.667	.667
1911	St. Louis	21	83	15	32	2	3	0	15	5	.386	.482
1912	St. Louis	25	97	9	25	2	0	1	11	9	.258	.309
1913	French Lick	4	18	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	.333	.333
1914	Brooklyn	31	116	20	32	5	2	1	15	13	.276	.379
1915	St. Louis	41	164	53	64	11	4	10	48	39	.390	.689
1916	St. Louis	33	128	22	37	6	1	3	19	17	.289	.422
1917	New York	19	75	16	23	0	1	0	4	4	.307	.333
	Jewell's ABCs	7	25	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	.280	.280
	All Nations	6	23	3	6	0	0	0	3	2	.261	-
	St. Louis	1	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	.750	.750
1918	Indianapolis	41	161	31	45	5	7	1	19	7	.287	.431
1919	St. Louis	4	15	1	6	0	0	0	1	2	.400	.400
	Chicago Giants	-	14	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	.571	-
1920	Detroit	59	227	64	86	15	5	8	46	21	.379	.595
1921	Chicago	81	286	60	86	6	5	6	43	30	.301	.420
1922	Chicago	71	274	41	72	8	4	1	29	25	.263	.332
1923	Chicago	66	200	39	54	11	2	1	26	20	.270	.360
1924	Washington	4	7	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	.571	.571
1932	Chicago	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	538	1990	399	616	73	36	32	289	214	.310	.4161

Career Statistics – Hitting (Championship Series)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1921	Chicago	-	15	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	.400	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1911	New York	1	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	.400	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1912	Fe	32	118	19	34	5	4	0	15	-	.288	.398
1915	Indianapolis	20	78	11	23	0	1	0	-	8	.295	.308
	Total	52	196	30	57	5	5	0	15	8	.291	.367

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro Leagues	538	1990	399	616	73	36	32	289	214	.310	.431
Championship Series	-	15	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	.400	-
Exhibition Games	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	.400	-
Cuba	52	196	30	57	5	5	0	15	8	.291	.367

Career Statistics – Pitching (Regular Season)

Year	Team	Complete			Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA	SH
		Games	Games	Innings								
1909	Chicago Union Giants	24	-	-	22	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
1910	St. Louis	3	3	27.0	3	0	-	7	-	-	-	-
1912	St. Louis	-	-	-	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
1915	St. Louis	1	1	8.0	0	1	7	3	5	5	3.38	0
1916	St. Louis	5	0	22.1	1	2	25	10	9	7	4.03	-
1917	Indianapolis	2	0	12.1	1	0	3	1	6	5	0.73	0
1919	St. Louis	1	0	0.2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00	0
1920	Detroit	1	0	-	1	0	-	-	-	6	-	0
	Total	34	-	-	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	6

Assessing Jimmie Lyons Career

- During his Negro League career, Jimmie Lyons posted a **career batting average of .310 and a career slugging percentage of .431** in games against Negro League teams and top level competition.

Negro League researchers differ in Jimmie Lyons' yearly and career batting averages but all agree he was an outstanding hitter. The chart below identifies Lyon's batting averages as presented through the research of seven (7) leading Negro League historians

	CNLBR	Lester and Clark	Seamheads	Baseball Reference	McMillan Baseball Encyclopedia	John Holway	James Riley
1910	.282	.250	-	-	-	-	-
1911	.386	.365	.367	-	-	.375	.452
1912	.258	.232	.258	-	-	.241	.288
1913	.333	-	.333	-	-	-	-
1914	.276	.241	.269	.254	.286	.375/.259	.375
1915	.390	.390	.324	.308	.316	.333	-
1916	.289	.265	.289	.289	.340	.278	-
1917	.317	.160	.307	.307	.150	.188	-
1918	.280	.600	.271	.271	.222	.265/.353	-
1919	.483	.400	.500	.500	-	.571	-
1920	.379	.357	.379	.351	.406	.399	.386
1921	.301	.307	.301	.299	.289	.295	.289
1922	.263	.258	.263	.254	.249	.245	.249
1923	.270	.270	.270	.270	.251	-	.251
1924	.571	.571	.500	.333	-	-	-
Career Average	.310	.301	.299	.291	.297	-	-

(Notes – CNLBR refers to the Center for Negro League Baseball Research and Lester & Clark refers to the research team of Larry Lester and Dick Clark. John Holway reports two batting averages for two seasons (1914 and 1918) because he calculated batting averages for Lyons playing for two different teams during each season.)

The obvious reason for the difference in batting statistics by the seven different research groups is the fact that not all researchers analyzed the same games and the total number of games evaluated by each research group is different. The chart below identifies Jimmie Lyons' number of "official" at bats, base hits and career batting average as presented through the research of several of these Negro League historians.

	At Bats	Hits	Career Batting Average
CNLBR	1990	616	.310
Lester & Clark	1581	476	.301
Seamheads	1733	519	.299
Baseball Reference	1352	394	.291
Mc Millan Baseball Encyclopedia	955	284	.297

- It is important to take into consideration the **impact that Jimmie Lyons' near fatal accident in 1921 had on his overall career batting average**. Much has been published about Jimmie falling 25 feet down an elevator shaft in a hotel in Cincinnati, but very little has ever been presented on how this accident affected his ability to play baseball at an extremely high level on a daily basis and how it impacted his career batting average.

Current research has revealed that before his accident Lyons had a career batting average of .321 (490 for 1526). In the two full seasons (1922 and 1923) he played after the accident he went 126 for 474 for a .266 batting average. This was a drop of 55 points in his batting average. From this researcher's perspective the accident Jimmie Lyons had in 1921 potentially dropped his career batting average by eleven (11) points.

- Jimmie Lyons' professional baseball career lasted at least eighteen (18) years from 1909 through 1925 and in 1932. Currently we have only found box scores for 596 games or about 33 games a season. It is also important to note he played baseball twelve months out of the year on a regular basis. We do know that during the winter he played exhibition games all over the country, traveled to California, played in the Florida Hotel League and went to Cuba. Common sense tells us that as a full time professional ball player he had to have played at least three to four times the number of games for which we have currently found box scores. Therefore, we have a significant **problem of missing statistics**. We are most likely missing at least several hundred box scores for games in which he played
- While he was an excellent hitter, Jimmie Lyons' **greatest asset in baseball may have been his speed**. His speed has often been compared to that of James "Cool Pappa" Bell who was without question the fastest ball player of all time.

Lyons was the top base stealer of his day and was very intelligent at running the base paths. With his blazing speed, it was not uncommon for him to be able to take the extra base or beat out a base hit on an infield grounder. His combination of being an excellent drag bunter and great speed also enabled him to get on base more frequently. In the outfield his speed and ability to get a good jump on the ball often robbed his opponents of base hits or extra base hits.

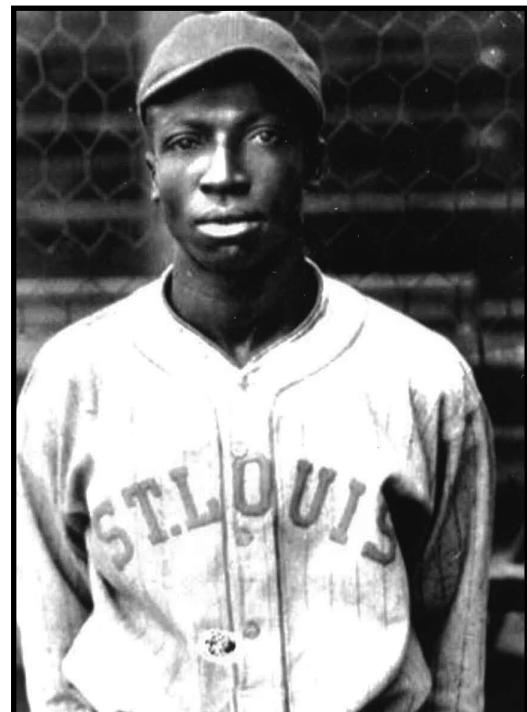
- Jimmie Lyons' **skills were always in demand**. During his eighteen (18) year playing career that lasted from 1909 to 1925 and also with a brief appearance in 1932, he played for at least twenty-three (23) different teams.
- Lyons brought a **winning tradition** to teams for which he played. During his career he played on the following championship teams:

Year	Team	League
1909	Chicago Union Giants	Lakeshore League
1912	St. Louis Giants	St. Louis City League
1913	French Lick Plutos	Spring Valley League
1913	French Lick Plutos	Colored Champions of the Midwest (OH, KY, IN, MO, WI, MI, MN and IA)
1915	Indianapolis ABCs	Colored Champions of the West
1917	New York Lincoln Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1921	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League
1921	Chicago American Giants	Championship Series vs Atlantic City
1922	Chicago American Giants	Colored Championship of the South
1922	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League
1922	Chicago American Giants	Colored World's Championship
1923	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League
1932	Cole's American Giants	Negro Southern League

- Jimmie was a **versatile ball player**. He started his career as a pitcher/outfielder for the Chicago Union Giants in 1909. From line scores that have been found he went 22-2 (.917) for the Union Giants and compiled a career won-loss record of 30-5 (.857). When he went to the St. Louis Giants in 1911 he was converted to a full time outfielder because of his hitting and speed.
- After his playing career, Jimmie Lyons also **tried his hand as being a manager**. During the 1932 season, he managed the Louisville Black Caps of the Negro Southern League.
- Jimmie Lyons **ended his baseball career working in the front office** of the Chicago American Giants.

Selected Career Highlights

- As a seventeen year old Jimmie Lyons led the Chicago Unions Giants to the Lakeshore League title in 1909 with his pitching and hitting. Lyons is credited with a won-loss record of 22-2 (.917) for the 1909 Union Giants.
- Negro League researcher John Holway identifies Jimmie Lyons as the top hitter in the West for the 1911 season.
- He helped lead the St. Louis Giants to the St. Louis City League championship in 1912.
- Lyons led the Cuban League in at bats (118) and triples (4) for the 1912 season.
- Jimmie Lyons led the French Lick Plutos to a Spring Valley League championship and the title of “Colored Champions of the Midwest” in 1913.
- In 1915 Lyons had one of two best seasons of his career when he hit for a .390 batting average and .689 slugging percentage. In 164 at bats he had 11 doubles, 10 homeruns, 48 RBIs and 39 stolen bases.
- Lyons played two winter seasons in Cuba which was an incredibly competitive league. Jimmie played in 52 games, got 192 at bats, collected 57 hits for a very respectable .291 batting average.
- During the Negro National League’s first season in 1920 Jimmie Lyons was the “leagues” top hitter with a .379 batting average and a .595 slugging percentage. He also had 15 doubles, 5 triples, 8 homeruns, 46 RBIs and stolen 21 bases during the season.
- Jimmie Lyons was a member of the Chicago American Giants team that defeated the New Orleans Crescent Stars in 1922 for the “Colored Championship of the South.”
- While playing for the Chicago American Giants, he was a member of three Negro National League championship teams in 1921, 1922 and 1923.
- Considered along with James “Cool Pappa” Bell to be the two fastest men to ever play professional baseball.
- When former Chicago American Giants player and managerial great, Dave Malarcher, was asked to list his top four outfielders of all-time in black baseball, he listed Oscar Charleston, Pete Hill, Jimmie Lyons and Cristobal Torriente.
- In 1952 the Pittsburgh Courier newspaper selected Jimmie Lyons as one of the greatest Negro League players of all-time.



James “Cool Pappa” Bell
St. Louis Stars

Jimmie Lyons
Detroit Stars
Negro National League

Prior to the start of the inaugural season of the Negro National League, Jimmie Lyons was assigned to the Detroit Stars by Rube Foster who was President of the Negro National League.

According to Negro League baseball researcher John Holway, Jimmie Lyons was the best player in the inaugural season of the Negro National League and placed as follows in the final list of leaders of Negro National League hitting statistics: batting average - .399 (1st), homeruns - 8 (2nd), doubles - 16 (4th), triples - 7 (2nd) and stolen bases - 22 (2nd).



Detroit Stars (1920)
Negro National League

(Back row left to right – Bill Holland, **Edgar Wesley**, **Bruce Petway**, Charlie Harper, Bill Gatewood, unidentified and unidentified. Middle row left to right – Joe Hewitt, **Pete Hill**, John Tenny Blount, **Jimmie Lyons** and **Andy Cooper**. Front row left to right – unidentified, William Force, **Frank Warfield** and unidentified)