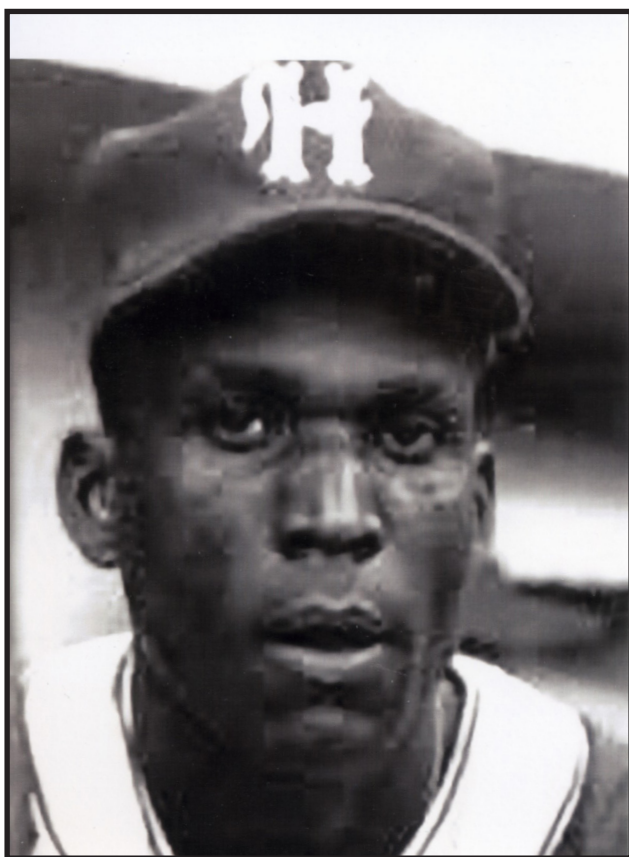


Forgotten Heroes: Marvin “Tex” Williams



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

and

Luis Munoz

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Marvin Williams

“Baseball’s Traveling Man”

There is a saying in Negro League baseball “that the sun is always shining somewhere.” This means that that there was always some place to play professional baseball twelve months of the year. Player contracts in the Negro Leagues were never large enough to support a ball player and his family for the entire year; so when the Negro League season was over, players had to find other employment to financially support himself and his family over the winter months. Many players found employment outside baseball but the better ball players always had the opportunity to travel to California or Latin America to play winter ball.

Marvin Williams had a long and very successful professional baseball career that lasted twenty-one (21) years. He began playing professional baseball in 1943 and he retired in 1963. During his career Marvin Williams played professional baseball somewhere basically twelve months out of the year. He was a professional ball player and that was how he made his living. He played in the Negro Leagues (Negro National League and Negro American League), “organized” baseball in the Minor Leagues, Mexico (both regular and winter league seasons), Cuba (winter ball), Puerto Rico (winter league baseball) and Venezuela (regular season and winter baseball).

In the Negro Leagues Marvin played for the Philadelphia Stars (1943-1945 and 1949) of the Negro National League and the Cleveland Buckeyes (1950) of the Negro American League. Marvin traveled to Mexico off and on from 1945 to 1963. Marvin played six seasons in the Mexican League and numerous seasons of winter baseball in Mexico (Mexican Pacific Coast League and Liga Invernal de la Veracruzana).

He entered “organized “ baseball in 1950 with the Sacrament Solons of the Pacific Coast League and played all or parts of 11 seasons in the Minor Leagues in the United States, The majority of his Minor League career was spent in AA ball.

Our research has identified at least fifty (57) different teams for which Marvin played.



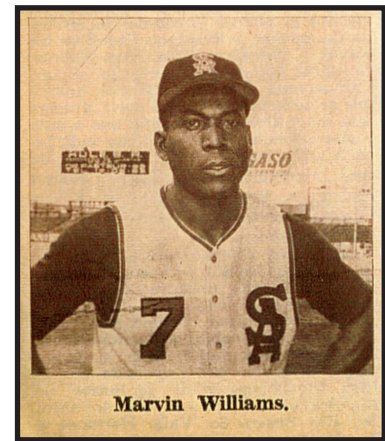
Tulsa Oilers (1956)
Texas League

(Front row left to right – Lloyd Jenny, Vic Marasco, Frank Viridi, **Marvin Williams**, Gene Tanselli, President Grayle Howlett, Manager Al Widmar, Lee Bohlander, Bob Will, Frank Ernaga and Jim Fanning.
Back Row left to right – Trainer John Tabor, Bill Tremel, Harry Parkowski, Vicente Amor, Al Lary, Marlin Stuart, Bill Currie, Dale Matthewson.)

Marvin “Tex” Williams was born in Conroe, Texas on February 12, 1923.

Williams stood six feet tall and weighed 185 to 195 pounds during his playing career. He batted from the right hand side of the plate and threw right handed. During his playing career Marvin was primarily a second baseman but also played in the outfield, third base and first base.

His career in professional baseball started in 1943 with the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro National League and ended twenty-one years later in 1963 with Puerto Mexico (Coatzacoalcos) of the Liga Invernal Veracruzana in Mexico.



Marvin “Tex” Williams

Early Baseball Career

Marvin honed his baseball skills on the sand lots of his hometown of Conroe, Texas. By the time he was a teenager he was playing baseball with the men on Conroe’s local team named the “Pine Knots.” He played for the Conroe Pine Knots from 1940 to 1942 when he moved up the hierarchy of semiprofessional ball in Texas to play with the Bay City Oilers. In 1942 Williams also played for a local industrial league team in nearby Houston by the name of the “Morgan Line.”

Williams’ big break in baseball came after the regular 1942 baseball season when he was asked to play on an all star team that represented Baytown, Conroe and Houston. The team was assembled to play a two game series against the Negro League All Stars who were barnstorming through the South after the regular 1942 season had concluded play.

Negro League Career

When the Negro National League All Stars were in Houston playing the local all star team for which Marvin Williams starred, Marvin’s play caught the eye of his Negro League opponents. Fortunately for Williams, two members of the Negro National League All Stars were Houston residents (Roy “Red” Parnell and Pat Patterson). Both Parnell and Patterson played with the Philadelphia Stars during the regular season. Parnell and Patterson were so impressed with Marvin’s baseball skills that they invited him to come back East to play with them for the Philadelphia Stars. If he (Marvin) was interested they would put in a good word for him with team owner Ed Bolden. Marvin’s performance against the Negro Leaguers got him signed for the 1943 season by Ed Bolden for his Philadelphia Stars team in the Negro National League. According to Marvin he left Houston on June 23, 1943 to begin his professional baseball career.

Ed Bolden’s 1943 Philadelphia Stars featured a solid team that was led by the hitting of Marvin Williams (.354), Gene Benson (.303), Jim West (.300), Roy “Red” Parnell (.298), Jake Spearman (.293) and Homer “Goose” Curry (.288). Seventeen (17) box scores have been found for Marvin Williams during his rookie season for the Philadelphia Stars in Negro National League games. His complete batting statistics for these games were as follows;

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1943	Philadelphia	17	65	13	23	4	3	0	11	2	.354	.508

During the 1943 season, Marvin Williams played second base, shortstop and pinch hit for the Philadelphia Stars.

Barney Brown (7-9), Chester “Buck” Buchanan (6-3), Verdell “Lefty” Mathis (4-2), Homer “Goose” Curry (3-3) and Steve “Zeke” Keys (2-0) were the team’s top pitchers in 1943. Willie Burns, Robert Evans, Hubert “Country” Glenn, Dave Harper, Ben Hill, Jimmy “Slim” Johnson, Larry Kimbrough, Henry Miller and Pete Sunkett also pitched for Philadelphia during the 1943 season.

Researchers disagree on the Philadelphia Stars won-loss record in 1943. Larry Lester and Dick Clark credit Philadelphia with a record of 26-28 (.481) and in fifth place in the final Negro National League standings. Negro League researcher John Holway credits the Stars with a winning record of 26-21 (.553) and in third place in the final “league” standings. All researchers agree that the Homestead Grays (44-15) were the champions of the Negro National League in 1943 and that the Grays went on to beat the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League in the Negro League World Series.

During the post season Marvin played second base in a game for a team called the “North All Stars” on September 9th. He also played two games for the Negro National League All Stars. These were played on September 18th and 19th. Marvin played shortstop in both of these games.

Disappointed by his team’s performance in 1943, Ed Bolden revamped his roster for the 1944 season. Bolden’s changes in his starting lineup and new roster signings produced a very strong hitting team that included:

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Jim West	.350	OF	Ed Stone	.300
2B	Marvin Williams	.338	OF	Gene Benson	.327
SS	Frank Austin	.390	OF	Goose Curry	.289
3B	Jake Spearman	.292			
C	Bill Cash	.282	P	Bill Ricks	10-4

(Note – the statistics above were reported by the Howe News Bureau as the “official” statistics for Negro National League games only.)



Philadelphia Stars (1944)

(Back row left to right – Stanley Glenn, Garrel Hartman, Bill Ricks, Henry “Hank” Miller, **Marvin Williams**, **Ed Bolden**, Ed Stone, Homer “Goose” Curry, **Jim West**, Hubert “Country” Glenn, Clarence Palm and **Oscar Charleston**. Front row left to right – **Frank Austin**, Charles Boone, Mahlon Duckett, Barney Brown, Ulysess Mahoney, Gene Benson and Bill Cash.)

During the 1944 season Marvin Williams was the Philadelphia Stars starting second baseman.

In games against all levels of competition during the 1944 season, Marvin Williams compiled a .344 batting average with a .505 slugging percentage. His complete statistics for the fifty-three (53) box scores that have been found for him playing second base for the 1944 Philadelphia Stars are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944	Philadelphia	53	212	35	73	17	4	3	51	2	.344	.505

Philadelphia had definitely improved their performance from a year earlier. In forty-four (44) official Negro National League games the Philadelphia Stars led the “league” in hitting with a .302 team batting average. The Stars also finished second in the “league” in fielding with a .969 fielding percentage. Unfortunately for Ed Bolden and the Philadelphia Stars, the Homestead Grays had the second best hitting team in the Negro National League and they also had the best pitching staff in the “league.”

Philadelphia had a solid pitching staff in 1944 that included Bill Ricks (10-4), Barney Brown (7-4), Henry “Hank” Miller (5-3) and Hubert Glenn (3-2). Charles “Lefty” Boone, Freddie Hobgood and Pete Sunkett also pitched for the Stars in 1944.

During the second half of the season the Philadelphia Stars battled the Homestead Grays for the “league” championship. On September 9th which was the final day of the season, the New York Cubans beat the Homestead Grays in a doubleheader that was played at Briggs Stadium in Detroit. For some unexplained reason only one of these losses were counted in the “official” Negro National League standings.



Ed Bolden
Philadelphia Stars
Owner

This resulted in a significant amount of controversy. With only one of the two losses being counted, the second half of the Negro National League season went to Homestead. If both losses had been counted, the season would have ended in a tie between Philadelphia and Homestead. Bolden felt very strongly that both losses should be counted and appealed his case to Negro National League President Tom Wilson. Bolden’s case was not upheld. The final standings for the second half of the Negro National League season ended up as follows: Homestead Grays (12-5), Philadelphia Stars (15-7), Baltimore Elite Giants (15-10), New York Cubans (6-6), Newark Eagles (8-15) and New York Black Yankees (2-15).

The Homestead Grays (27-13) were awarded the Negro National League pennant for the 1944 season and for the second straight year they defeated the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League in the Negro League World Series.

The 1944 season saw improvement in the Stars play against Negro National League competition. After finishing two games under five hundred in 1943, they finished three games over the five hundred mark in 1944. Philadelphia went 21-18 (.538) in “league” play in 1944 and ended the year in third place in the Negro National League.



Comiskey Park
Chicago, IL

For his exemplary play during the 1944 Negro National League season, Marvin Williams was selected to the East squad for the annual East-West All Star game. The game was played on August 13th at Comiskey Park in Chicago. The East team was managed by Candy Jim Taylor (Chicago American Giants) and the West team was managed by W.S. Welch (Birmingham Black Barons). Marvin only got one plate appearance in the game and that was when he unsuccessfully pinch hit for Thomas “Pee Wee” Butts. The West squad collected fourteen (14) hits and easily defeated the East by a score of 7-4. Gentry Jessup got the win and Howard Carranza took the loss.

During the post season Marvin played second base for the North Classic team in a game that was played on October 1st. Marvin went 3 for 4 in the game with a triple. He also scored one run and drove in two runs.

Winter Ball in Puerto Rico

After his outstanding season with the Philadelphia Stars in 1944, Marvin was recruited by the Ponce Leones to play winter ball in the 1944-45 Puerto Rican League. Williams was the starting second baseman for the Leones. Fortunately for the Leones, they had the two best hitters in the “league” in their starting line-up. They were Francisco “Pancho” Coimbre (.425) and Marvin Williams (.378). Marvin’s hitting statistics for the 1944-45 winter league season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944-45	Ponce	-	90	17	34	-	-	1	13	-	.378	-

Other top hitters for Ponce during the season were Tomas Quinones (.423 w/ “league” leading three homeruns), Juan Guilbe (.397), Marzo Cabrera (.288), Mario Perez (.280) and Sam Bankhead (.271). It is important to note that pitchers Quinones and Guilbe did not have enough at bats to qualify for the “league” batting title. Tomas Quinones (16-3), Lazaro Medina (6-3) and Juan Guilbe (6-5) handled the majority of Ponce’s pitching assignments. Quinones also led the “league” with a 2.52 ERA.

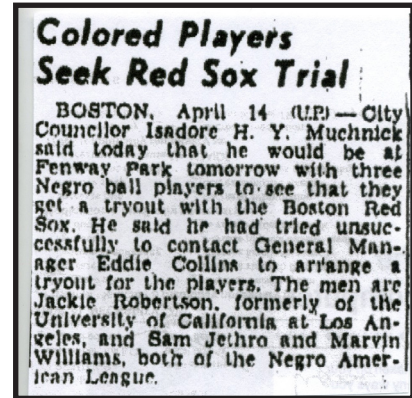
Ponce started the season strong and went 18-10 (.642) during the first half of the season. The team really caught fire in the second half of the season by going 10-1 (.909) to destroy the rest of the competition. The Ponce Leones finished the season with an impressive record of 28-11 (.718) which enabled them to claim the Puerto Rican League title. The final “league” standings were:

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	Games Behind
Ponce Leones	28	11	.718	-
Santurce Crabbers	22	20	.524	7.5
San Juan Senadores	19	22	.463	11.0
Mayaguez Indios	11	27	.289	16.5

Robinson, Jethroe and Williams Try-Out for the Boston Red Sox

One of the early tryouts of Negro League baseball players by a Major Baseball League club occurred in 1945 by the Boston Red Sox of the American League.

Isadore H.Y. Muchnick, a Boston city councilman, had been pressuring the Boston Braves and Boston Red Sox to add black ball players to their Major League rosters. To get the Braves and Red Sox attention, Muchnick threatened to get the Red Sox's permit to play professional baseball games on Sunday revoked. The teams' inability to play Sunday baseball would have had a significant negative financial impact on the team. The Boston Red Sox of the American League finally agreed to a tryout. Sports writer Wendell Smith of the Pittsburgh Courier agreed to help identify the Negro League players for the tryout. Sam Jethroe (outfielder for the Cleveland Buckeyes), Jackie Robinson (infielder for the Kansas City Monarchs) and Marvin Williams (infielder for the Philadelphia Stars) were the three players chosen for the tryout. This time young, talented Negro League ball players were chosen.



According to an interview with Jackie Robinson by the Boston Traveler which was published on January 26th of 1962, he, Sam Jethroe and Marvin Williams rode the train from Houston to Boston. Each of them was given a \$ 10 roll of quarters to cover traveling expenses. Not a \$ 10 bill, two fives or ten ones but a roll of quarters.

Boston Red Sox Try-Out

San Francisco Chronicle

04-15-45

The tryout was scheduled for Fenway Park in April. Fenway Park was chosen because the Red Sox were out of town on a road trip. When the trio arrived at the ball park they reported to General Manager Eddie Collins who sent them to the dressing room. Jethroe, Robinson and Williams worked out in front of Red Sox management along with twelve (12) white players. Reportedly the Boston Red Sox had high school pitchers throw batting practice to the Negro League trio.

Joe Cronin (Red Sox Manager) and Hugh Duffy (Red Sox Coach) both commented later that they were very impressed with the skills of all three players. Duffy's specific comments to the press were that Williams "was fast and had possibilities." Duffy went on to say that it was difficult to evaluate and make a definite decision as to their playing abilities after a single workout. After the tryout, the players filled out applications and were told that they would be hearing from the Red Sox. The call never came from the Red Sox and the Boston Braves never scheduled a work out.

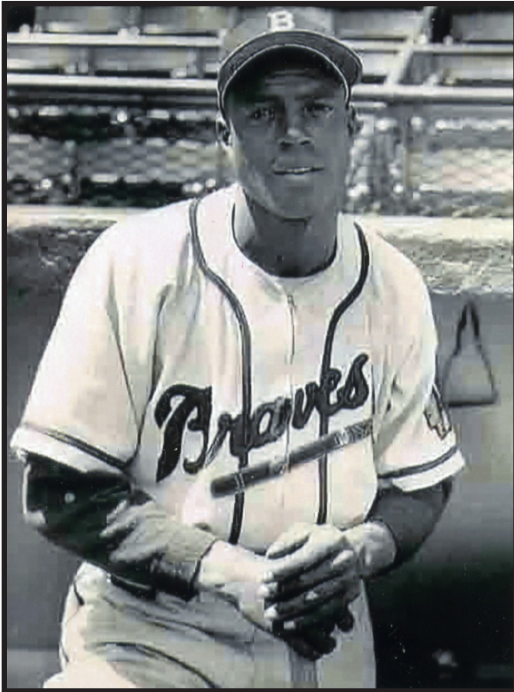
Brent Kelly in his book The Negro Leagues Revisited published the following interview with Marvin Williams when he talked about the tryout:

"I would say it went as well as any would have. I wouldn't say anything bad about the tryout.

When we got there, we were supposed to tryout for three days. Now, the Red Sox were leavin' that first evening and we tried out at 10:00 that morning. There wasn't any of the regular players out there – you know Bobby Doerr and Johnny Pesky. Now we were supposed to have a tryout the next day when the Braves were in town. They was comin' in that night and we were supposed to practice the next day. I think we woulda had a better tryout, but President Roosevelt died that night and that stopped everything.

We took infield practice and battin' practice – just like we would with any team. They had relief pitchers thrown' to us (one newspaper story said they were actually local high school players) –

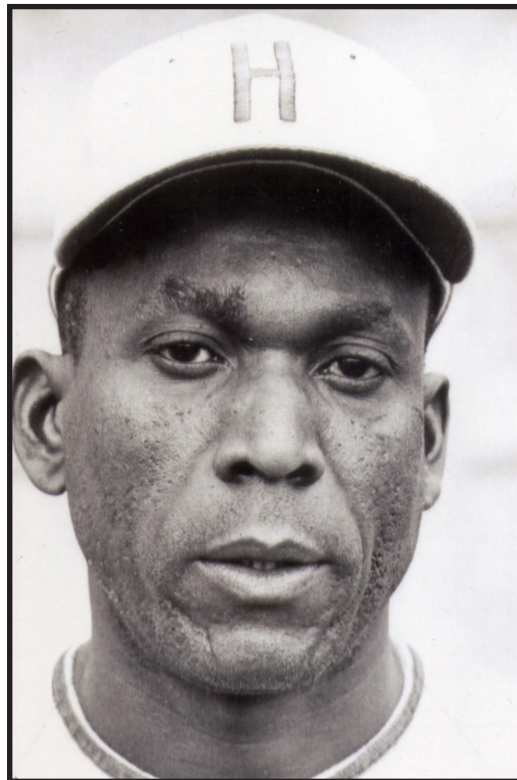
Boston Red Sox Try-Out



Sam Jethroe



Jackie Robinson



Marvin "Tex" Williams

long relief pitchers. They had about three of 'em; I don't remember their names. They didn't have their stoppers, but they were still major league pitchers.

Joe Cronin (Red Sox Manager) told us, he said "No doubt that you guys can play major league baseball. I've seen all of you play and I know you can play it. You can play better than some here, but what owner, what manager is gonna have the nerve to put one (a black player) on the team?Because if one is signed and doesn't make it, you'll hurt the rest of them."

Marvin Williams then added "We understood it."

In an interview with Dr. Revel (Center for Negro League Baseball Research), Marvin Williams shared that he knew that the chances of being signed were very slim. But in Williams' own words: "we had to take advantage of the opportunity and it was gratifying to show those white boys that we could play ball."

Negro Trio Works Out Under Coach Hugh Duffy of Red Sox

Something new was added to a single workout. He thought Williams looked like a good ball player, with plenty of speed and potential ability. Manager Cronin exhibited interest in the work of Robinson, a former Army lieutenant, who was 31 months in the service. Robinson is shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro-American League.

The three players were Jackie Robinson, former UCLA football and baseball star from Pasadena, Calif.; Sam Jethroe, Negro-American League batting champion of 1944 from St. Louis, and Marvin Williams, second baseman for the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro National League.

The Negro recruits reported to General Manager Eddie Collins, who sent them to the Red Sox dressing rooms to be issued uniforms. They worked out on the field for an hour under Coach Hughie Duffy, with Manager Joe Cronin watching from the bench.

Duffy, veteran Red Sox coach, said the trio seemed like "fine fellows," but he did not care to make a definite decision as to their ability after

Negro Stars Impress Joe Cronin in Tryouts

Boston, Mass. —(AP)—Two of three Negro aspirants for major league baseball berths—Jackie Robinson of Pasadena, Calif., and Marvin Williams of Philadelphia—impressed Manager Joe Cronin and Coach Hugh Duffy Monday while working out for the Boston Red Sox.

Cronin exhibited interest in Robinson, former UCLA football and baseball star, who served overseas for 31 months as an army lieutenant, and Duffy commented that Williams was fast and had possibilities.

The other Negro player to display his wares was Sam Jethroe of St. Louis and Erie, Pa., the 1944 Negro American league batting champion with the Cleveland Buckeyes.

Boston Herald

Boston, MA
04-17-45

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Milwaukee, WI
04-17-45

Williams Returns to the Negro Leagues

Marvin Williams split his time between the Mexico City Diablos Rojos of the Mexican League and the Philadelphia Stars during the 1945 baseball season. He started the season in Philadelphia with the Stars. The Philadelphia Stars fielded a solid team in 1945 that featured the hitting of Marvin Williams (.426), Gene Benson (.370), Frank Austin (.354), Homer “Goose” Curry (.313), Ed Stone (.298), Mal Duckett (.277) and Jim West (.272).

Fifteen (15) box scores have been found for Marvin Williams playing for the Stars in Negro National League games during the 1945 season. His complete hitting statistics for these games were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1945	Philadelphia	15	61	20	26	1	3	4	16	1	.426	.705

Williams posted the highest batting average in the “league” during the season but did not have enough “official” at bats to qualify for the batting title which was won by Josh Gibson of the Homestead Grays with a .393 batting average.

As a team, the Philadelphia Stars were tied with the Baltimore Elite Giants for the top hitting team during the 1945 Negro National League season with a .290 team batting average in “league” games only.

The starting pitching rotation for the Stars in 1945 was made up of Roy Partlow (9-4), Bill Ricks (6-4), Barney Brown (4-1), Pete Sunkett (3-1) and Hank “Henry” Miller (3-3)

Philadelphia ended the 1945 season with a winning record for the second year in a row. They went 21-19 (.525) which put them in fourth place in the final Negro National League standings for the 1945 season. The Homestead Grays (32-13) dominated “league” competition the entire season and easily won the Negro National League title for the 1945 season. In the Negro League World Series, the Homestead Grays lost four straight games to the Cleveland Buckeyes of the Negro American League.

Marvin Williams Travels to Mexico



Jorge and Bernardo Pasquel

In mid-June of 1945 Marvin left Philadelphia to join the Mexico City Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) of the Mexican League. The move to Mexico was an easy decision for Marvin Williams to make because the Pasquel brothers (Jorge and Bernardo) paid him \$ 1,500 a month plus expenses and that was really good money in those days. Marvin Williams was a super star and fan favorite from his very first season in Latin America in 1945. In Mexico Marvin was given the nick name of “La Coqueta.”

The Mexico City Diablos Rojos were managed by Ernesto Carmona. The top hitters for Carmona’s Red Devils in 1945 were Williams (.362) and fellow Negro Leaguer Ray Dandridge (.366).

Antonio Ordena (.345), Roberto Ortiz (.336) and Theo Smith (.287) also had good seasons offensively for Mexico City.

Marvin Williams' complete hitting statistics for his first season in Mexico were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1945	Mexico City	51	221	53	80	18	6	10	51	7	.362	.633

Tomas de la Cruz (17-11 w/ 2.26 ERA), Negro Leaguer Theo Smith (15-16 w/ 4.79 ERA), Negro League great Barney Brown (6-8 w/ 4.52 ERA) and Oliverio Ortiz (6-9) w/ 6.69 ERA) made up the starting pitching rotation for the Red Devils. These four pitchers carried the vast majority of the pitching load the entire season. Carmona used very few spot starters or relief pitchers during the season.

The Mexico City Diablos Rojos had a decent season in the 1945 Mexican League. They finished the season with a 44-46 (.498) record and were in fourth place in the final "league" standings. Tampico who was managed by former Major Leaguer Armando Marsans won the Mexican League title with a record of 52-38 (.578). Tampico was led by the hitting of Santos Amaro (.330), Hector Rodriguez (.326) and Barney Serrell (.313). Both Rodriguez and Serrell had starred in the Negro Leagues. The two man pitching rotation of Jesus Valenzuela (19-11 w/ 3.47) and Negro Leaguer Manuel "Cocaina" Garcia (18-11 w/ 3.59) provided all that Tampico required of the pitching staff.

After the conclusion of the regular 1945 Mexican League season, Marvin returned to the United States and appeared in one game for the North Classic team. The game was played on October 7th. Williams played third base and went 1 for 3 at the plate.

Marvin Williams Plays in the Serie de las Estrellas in Venezuela

Shortly after playing for the North Classic team, Marvin Williams was recruited to come to Venezuela to play for the Estrellas del Caribe (Stars of the Caribbean) in an exhibition series against the American All Stars and Cervceria Caracas. The series began on November 24th and play concluded on December 23rd.



(Back row left to right – **Roy Campanella**, Marvin Barker, Bill Anderson, Quincy Troupe, Blanco Chataing, George Jefferson, Parnell Woods, Roy Welmaker and **Walter "Buck" Leonard**. Front row left to right- **Jackie Robinson**, Gene Benson, Felton Snow, Verdell "Lefty" Mathias, Sam Jethroe and Trainer.)

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GOS.

Venezuela

American Series

1945

Game Poster

Promoted by
Blanco Chataing

The American All Stars were led by Roy Campanella (OF/C), Sam Jethroe (OF), Walter “Buck” Leonard (1B), Jackie Robinson (SS), Quincy Trouppe (C) and Parnell Woods (3B). Bill Anderson (3-1), Verdell “Lefty” Mathis (3-0) and Roy Welmaker (3-0) handled most of the pitching assignments for the Negro Leaguers.

Cerveceria Caracas was led by the hitting of Eduardo Perez (.385) and the pitching of Julio Bracho (2-2). Marvin Williams played second base for the Estrellas del Caribe and also led the team in hitting. Besides Marvin Williams the Estrellas del Caribe team also included Negro Leaguer Frank Austin who hit .297 for the series. Francisco Contreras (.419) and Gil Garrido (.364) also produced in the hitting department for the Estrellas del Caribe. Daniel Canonico (1-1) and Domingo Barboza anchored the pitching staff for the Estrellas del Caribe.

Marvin Williams had a great series. He led the Estrellas del Caribe in hitting with a .423 batting average and .673 slugging percentage.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1945	Estrellas del Cribé	9	52	-	22	5	1	2	10	0	.423	.673

Only Buck Leonard of the American All Stars had a better series. Buck hit .462 with a .723 slugging percentage.

When the Serie de las Estrellas concluded play in the Venezuelan exhibition series, the final standings were as follows: American All Stars (7-2), Cerveceria Caracas (3-4-1) and Estrellas del Caribe (2-5-1). The highlight of the series for the Estrellas del Caribe was handing the American All Stars one of their two losses. They defeated the American All Stars by a score of 3-2 in game seven of the series. Marvin Williams had two hits in the game and Domingo Barboza scattered seven hits while allowing the American All Stars just two runs.

The one thing that the general public was not aware of was that Marvin Williams injured his throwing arm during the Venezuelan exhibition series. This was most likely a turning point in Marvin’s quest to play in the Major Leagues. In the series Marvin had proven he could play at an extremely high level against the best Negro League and Latin players and after the series Jackie Robinson told him “Come on back. I know they’re gonna sign you. I’m pretty sure.” Before it became knowledge that Marvin had a bad throwing arm, reportedly the New York Yankees and Chicago White Sox had a significant interest in Williams. Once his throwing problems became general knowledge, Major League teams backed away from trying to sign him. It also didn’t help his cause that the New York Yankees already had Joe Gordan who was a stand-out player at second base. Marvin’s first choice was to go to the New York Yankees, but after he talked with Eddie Gottlieb (part owner of the Philadelphia Stars) he changed his mind. When Williams and Gottlieb talked, Eddie had the following to say: “The way you are throwin’ they’re not gonna move him. You can out hit him.” According to Marvin his throwing arm never really recovered to what it was before he got hurt.

BOX SCORE						
American All Star						
Sam Jethroe, cf	Vb	C	H	O	A	E
Parnell Woods, 3b	4	0	1	1	1	1
Jackie Robinson, ss	3	1	0	4	2	0
Buck Leonard, 1b	2	1	1	8	0	0
Roy Campanella, lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Quincy Trouppe, c	4	0	1	1	3	1
Eugene Benson, rf	3	0	1	2	0	0
Marvin Barker, 2b	2	0	0	2	3	0
George Jefferson, p	2	0	2	1	0	0
Felton Snow (1)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Billy Anderson, p	0	0	0	1	1	0
Verdell Mathis (2)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totales	30	2	7	24	13	2
(1) Batido por G. Jefferson en el 7º.						
(2) Batido por B. Anderson en el 9º.						
Estrellas del Caribe						
Frank Austin, ss	3	0	0	2	2	0
Carlos Ascanio, 1b	4	0	0	10	1	1
Marvin Williams, 2b	3	0	2	3	0	0
Venancio Osorio, lf	3	1	1	2	0	0
Francisco Contreras, cf	3	1	2	4	1	0
Gil Garrido, 3b	3	0	1	1	1	0
J. D. Garcia, rf	4	0	0	3	0	0
César Núñez, c	3	1	1	2	3	0
Domingo Barboza, p	3	0	2	0	2	0
Totales	29	3	9	27	10	1
Anotación por Entradas						
American All Star	200	000	000	2	7	2
Estrellas del Caribe	000	012	00x	3	9	1
Sumario						
Homer Runs: B. Leonard.						
Two base hits: F. Contreras.						
Hits a los pitchers: A. G. Jefferson 7 en 6; a B. Anderson 2 en 2.						
Struck Outs: B. Anderson, R. Wellmaker 6.						
Struck outs: D. Barboza 1; G. Jefferson 1.						
Bases por Bolas: D. Barboza 4; G. Jefferson 4; B. Anderson 1.						
Sacrificios: E. Benson, M. Barker y G. Garrido.						
Double plays: C. Ascanio a F. Austin; F. Contreras a C. Núñez; P. Woods a M. Barker a B. Leonard.						
Bases Robadas: F. Austin.						
Carreras limpias: a D. Barboza 2, a G. Jefferson 2 en 6, a B. Anderson 0 en 2.						
Empujadores: B. Leonard 2; G. Garrido 2.						
Balk: D. Barboza.						
Quedados en base: American All Star, 7. Estrellas del Caribe 8.						
Pitcher ganador: D. Barboza (1-0).						
Pitcher perdedor: G. Jefferson (0-1).						
Tiempo de juego: 2 horas, 5 minutos.						
Umpires: B. Inojosa, G. Requena, M. Capote, A. González.						
Anotador Oficial: Oscar Cabrera Orta (Liga de Anotadores).						
Jugado en el Stadium Cerveza Caracas - Caracas 8 de diciembre de 1945.						

Williams Banned from Negro National League

On May 6, 1946 Negro National League officials and owners met in Florida to consider what to do about all the players who had jumped their contracts to play in Mexico during the 1945 season. The group agreed to place a five (5) year ban on all of the players who had disregarded their contracts and went to Mexico. Players affected by this ban were Ray Brown, Ray Dandridge, Tom Glover, Ed Hunter, Terris McDuffie, Ed Stone, Johnny Taylor, Marvin Williams and Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright.

Marvin Stays in Venezuela

Marvin Williams' excellent play for the Estrellas del Caribe earned him a contract with the Sabios de Vargas of the Venezuelan League for the 1946 baseball season. The Venezuelan Professional Baseball League had been organized in December of 1945 and the 1946 season is considered the first season of professional "league" baseball in Venezuela. League play started in January of 1946 and continued on into the summer.

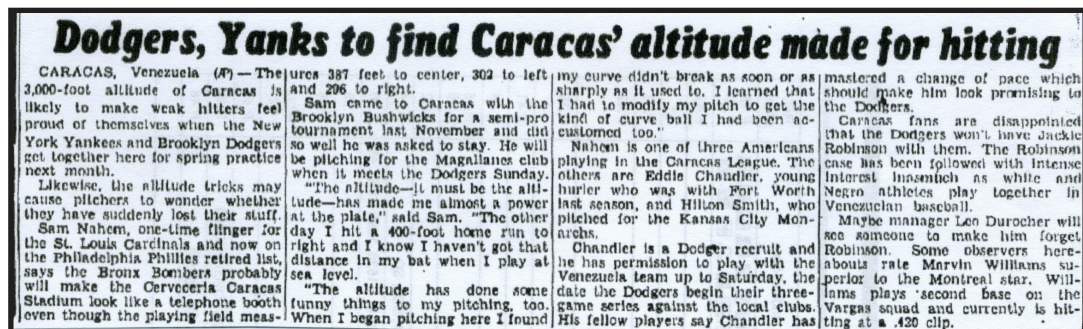
For ball players, Venezuela was a great place to play because games were only played three days out of the week (Thursday, Saturday and Sunday). According to Marvin, practice was limited to a few easy workouts during the week and players had a lot of time to rest up. In addition there was virtually no travel because all of the games were played at Estadio Cerveza Caracas.

Besides Marvin Williams, the owners of Vargas also signed the following four (4) other Negro League stars: Roy Campanella (C), Bill Jefferson (P), Sam Jethroe (OF) and Roy Welmaker (P). Roy Welmaker was the best pitcher in the "league" with a record of 12-8 (.600) and a "league" leading 2.80 ERA. Roy also led the "league" in strike outs with 139 strike outs in 192.1 innings.

Williams had an excellent season in Venezuela in 1946. He led the "league" in runs scored (29), doubles (14) and runs batted in (41). Marvin also batted .330 in 30 games. One of the highlights of the season for Marvin Williams occurred on March 7th of 1946 when he drove in eight (8) runs in one game against Magallanes Navigators. This eight RBI game is still a Venezuelan League record. Marvin also made history in the game when he became first player in Venezuelan League history to hit two home runs in one game. Marvin went 4 for 5 in the game and scored four runs. Vargas won the game by a score of 16 to 9.

With Daniel Canonico as the team's manager and the newly imported Negro League players, Vargas captured the Venezuelan League championship with a record of 18-12 (.600). Other teams that played in the "league" during the 1946 season were Cerveceria Caracas (15-15), Venezuela (15-15) and Magallanes (12-18).

Marvin also played several games for the Patriotas de Venezuela team during the 1946 season.



Marvin Williams Leads Venezuelan League in Hitting Newark State Ledger

02-25-47

Williams returned to Venezuela to play for Vargas in the Venezuelan League during the winter of 1946-47. Other Negro League players who accompanied Williams to Venezuela to play for Vargas were Sam Bankhead, Bill Cash (C), Tom Glover (P), Henry "Hank" Miller (P), Hilton Smith (P) and Parnell Woods (3B). Marvin appears to have had a good season offensively and led the "league" in doubles with thirteen (13). According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Newark Star Ledger on February 25th Marvin was hitting .420 for Vargas at that time in the 1946-47 Venezuelan season. Hilton Smith was the ace of the pitching staff with an 8-5 (.615) record and Henry Miller pitched in with a 4-2 record.

Daniel Canonico started the 1946-47 season as the team's manager but was fired when the team got off to an extremely poor start. Ernesto Aparicio replaced Canoncio and led the Vargas to the "league" championship in the "league's" post season play-off. Ironically, Vargas finished the regular season with a losing record of 16-19 (.407) and in third place in the four team "league." Cervecería Caracas finished the regular season in first place with a record of 23-13 (.638).

One of the highlights of the season for Vargas occurred in March when they played a four game series against the New York Yankees. The Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees had travelled to Venezuela to conduct their spring training for the 1947 season. During their exhibition series with the Yankees, Vargas also had Negro League players Ray Dandridge, Ducky Davenport, Gentry Jessup, Lennie Pearson and Hank Thompson in their line-up. The New York Yankees countered with stars like Yogi Berra, Allie Clark, Tommie Henrich, Charlie "King Kong" Keller, George McQuinn, Allie Reynolds, Phil Rizzuto and Stuffie Stirnweiss. Behind the pitching of Hilton Smith and Gentry Jessup, Vargas won the opening game of the series by a score of 4-3. Marvin Williams played second base and batted fifth in the line-up. He went 1 for 4 in the game. Records for the other three games are not currently available.



Marvin Williams Attends a Party Given for Jackie Robinson in Caracas (1947)

In 1947 Marvin Williams returned to Venezuela to play in the city of Maracaibo for Pastora of the Zulian Baseball League First Division.

The original Zulian League was formed in 1932 and folded after the 1940 season. In 1946 the Zulian League was reorganized and lasted until 1952. The Pastora team for which Marvin Williams played won the "league" title in 1934 and 1948.

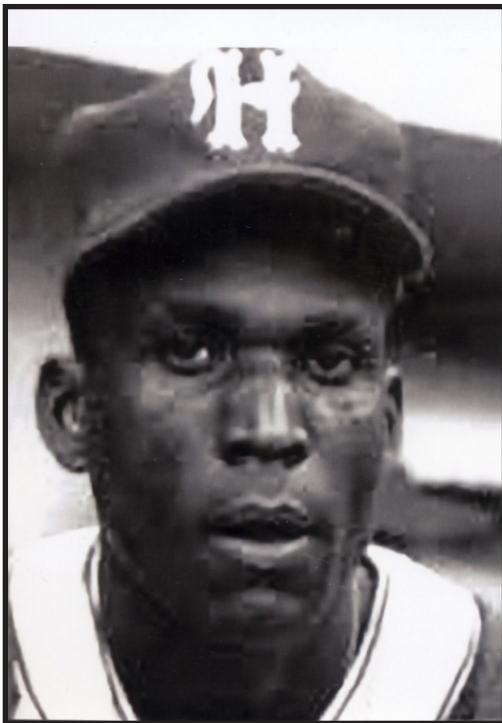
The Pastora team was sponsored by a local dairy company. The Gavilanes BBC was the most successful team in the "league." They won 13 of the 17 "league" championships over the history of the "league." The rivalry between Pastora and Gavilanes reportedly grew to epic proportions which always resulted in huge crowds at the ball games. Marvin Williams' statistics for this season have not yet been located.

Williams Joins the Leones of the Players Federation

During the 1940's baseball was at its high point in Cuba. Over the previous several seasons players started growing tired of the owners making all the money and them not getting their fair share. The player's solution was to form their own league. During the 1947-48 season the Players Federation played a winter league season at the La Tropical Stadium in Havana. The season started on October 30, 1947 and ended on March 10, 1948. The season was a huge success from the opening day when an estimated crowd of 40,000 fans witnessed the Leones defeat the Alacranes by a score of 3 to 0. The teams played to large crowds all season.

Salvador Hernandez, manager of the Leones, got both good hitting and pitching from his players the entire season. The Leones were led by the hitting of Luis Olmo (.318), Rene Montegudo (.317), Carlos Blanco (.297) and Marvin Williams (.286). Sandy Consuegra (11-4), Terris McDuffie (9-12), Fred Martin (9-9), Lazaro Medina (8-10) and Sandy Ulrich (6-1) handled the majority of the pitching assignments for the Leones.

The Leones won the Players Federation championship with a record of 50-41 (.550). The rest of the "league" standings were as follows: Cuba (46-45), Alacranes (44-47) and Santiago (7-14) who had dropped out of the "league" on December 15th.



Marvin Williams
Leones

Williams Ban Continues from Negro National League

On January 19, 1948 Negro National League officials and owners met at the Hotel Teresa in New York City for their annual meeting. One of the primary topics of discussion was the ban that had been placed on several ball players in 1946 for jumping their Negro National League contracts and playing in Mexico during the 1945 season. The delegates at the meeting agreed to continue to enforce the ban on the players.

According to an article that appeared in the New York Amsterdam News on January 24th, the following players were identified as being affected by the decision: James Clarkson, Ray Dandridge, Leon Day, Leon Ruffin, Roy Welmaker, Marvin Williams and "Wild Bill" Wright.

Marvin Williams Returns to Mexico

With the option of playing in the Negro National League or Negro American League not being a possibility, Marvin had to seek employment in Latin America if he wanted to continue to play professional baseball. After a two year absence Marvin Williams returned to Mexico to play for the Mexico City Diablos Rojos for the 1948 Mexican League season. Manuel Arroyo managed the Diablos Rojos in 1948. To strengthen their roster Mexico City signed several Negro League players. The team was led by the hitting of Roberto Ortiz (.358), Marvin Williams (.328), Sergio Corraera (.319), Rene Gonzalez (.310), Silvio Garcia (.295), Felix McLaurin (.294) and Lonnie Sommers (.290).

Marvin Williams complete batting statistics for the 1948 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1948	Mexico City	78	302	69	99	13	11	14	57	8	.328	.583

Williams led the Mexican League in triples with eleven (11) for the 1948 season.



Marvin “La Coqueta” Williams
Mexico

Other than Alfonso Ramirez (14-9 w/ 3.13 ERA) and Agapito Mayor (7-12 w/4.38 ERA) the rest of the team’s starting rotation was from the Negro Leagues. These pitchers were Booker McDaniels (12-12 w/ 4.62 ERA), Theolic Smith (9-11 w/ 4.24 ERA) and Leon Day (8-9 w/ 4.34).

The Diablos Rojos got good hitting during the season but the pitching staff gave up too many runs. When the season ended Mexico City was 44-44 (.500) and in fourth place in the final “league” standings. Monterrey who was managed by the legendary Lazaro Salazar won the Mexican League championship with a record of 50-35 (.588).

For his excellent play during the 1948 Mexican League season, Marvin was selected to play in the Mexican League All Star Game. The game included one team of foreign players (Selecion Extranjeros) and the other team was comprised of Mexican born players (Selecion Mexicanos). Williams played for the Selecion Extranjeros who lost to the Selecion Mexicanos by a score of 3 to 2.

Mexican Pacific Coast League

After the conclusion of the regular 1948 Mexican League season, Marvin stayed in Mexico to play winter league baseball with Los Mochis of the Liga de la Costa Pacifico (Mexican Pacific Coast League). The “league” has also been referred to as the Liga Invernal de Sonora and the Liga Sonoroa-Sinoloa. Other cities that fielded teams in the 1948-49 Mexican Pacific Coast League season were Ciudad Obregon (Trigueros), Culiacan (Tacuarineros), Guaymas (Ostioneros), Hermosillio (Queliteros) and Mazatlan (Venados). The “league” played their season schedule from October through December (1948) with a play-off series in January (1949).

Los Mochis was managed by Cuban and Mexican League Hall of Famer Lazaro Salazar. During his playing days Salazar was both a great hitter and pitcher. He was also one of the top managers in Latin American baseball history.

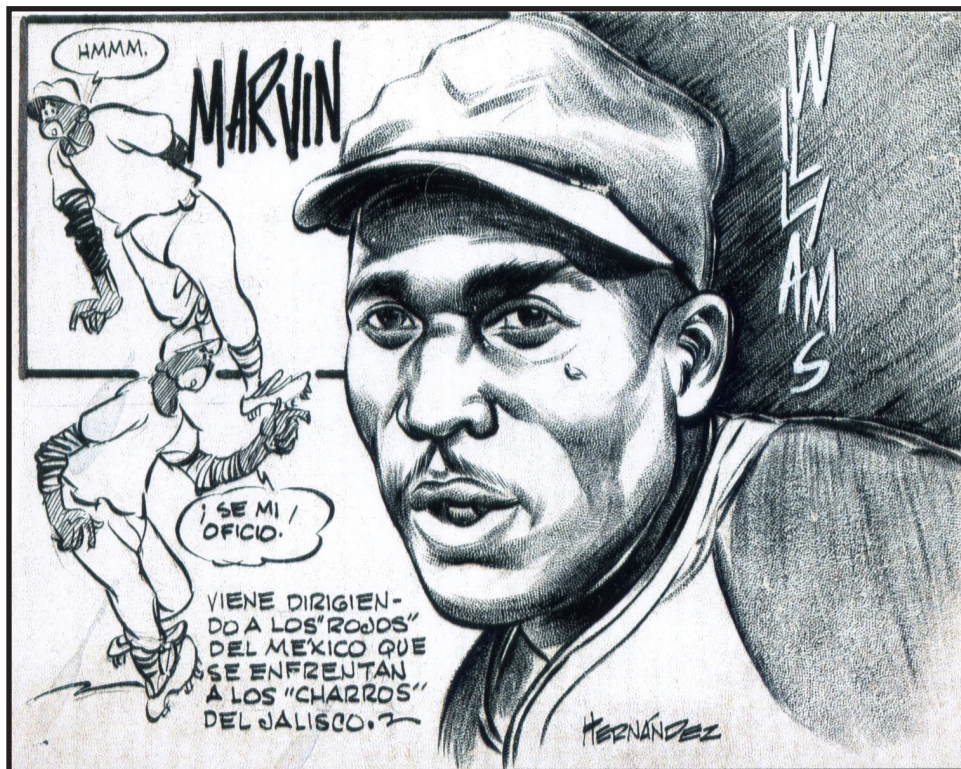
Research indicates to us that Marvin Williams was the hitting star for Los Mochis during the season. One article about the season describes a massive home run that he hit off Ladislao Zamora in Fraccionamiento Estadio (home stadium of Los Mochis) in an important game against Guaymas. The article tells how excited the crowd was and that the announcer got so excited that he even dropped his microphone. Complete batting statistics for Williams' season with Los Mochis in 1948-49 still need to be uncovered. A newspaper article from Mexico has been found that credits Marvin Williams with 18 runs batted in for the season.

Other standouts on the team included Juan Conde, Raul Garcia, Felipe "El Burro" Hernandez, Hector "La Comadre" Leal, Memo Luna, Negro Leaguer Booker McDaniels, Felipe Montemayor, Raul "El Socio" Navarro, "Moscon" Reyes, Armando "Indian" Torres and Celso Zendejas. Both Luna (St. Louis Cardinals – 1954) and Montemayor (Pittsburgh Pirates – 1953 and 1955) made it to the Major Leagues in the United States. Late in the season Salazar added Cuban ball players Homerio Airosa and "Mantecado" Linares to bolster his roster.

Final Mexican Coast League standings and the details of the play-offs are not available but it is known that the Tacuarineros de Culiacan were the 1948 Mexican Pacific Coast League champions.

Marvin Starts the 1949 Season in Mexico

Marvin Williams played briefly for the Jalisco Charros of the Mexican League in 1949 but spent the majority of the season with the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro American League. Williams only appeared in three games for the Charros. He collected seven hits (including a double and homerun) in twelve at bats for a .583 batting average with a .917 slugging percentage. He also scored four runs and had four runs batted in.



Marvin Williams
Jalisco Charros

Williams Returns Home to Philadelphia

When the Negro National League folded after the 1948 season, Philadelphia joined several of the other Negro National League teams and moved to the Negro American League. Prior to the start of the 1949 season, the Negro American League reorganized into an Eastern and Western Division in order to accommodate the Negro National League teams that would be moving over to their league. During the 1949 baseball season, the Philadelphia Stars played in the Eastern Division of the Negro American League. Other teams in the Eastern Division were the Baltimore Elite Giants, Indianapolis Clowns, Louisville Buckeyes and New York Cubans.

In an effort to improve his team's mediocre performance over the past several seasons, Ed Bolden convinced Marvin Williams to return to the Philadelphia Stars for the 1949 season. The team was managed by Oscar Charleston who had been a super star when he played in the Negro Leagues.

Joining Williams as the top players on the Philadelphia roster were James "Buz" Clarkson (.330), Arthur Hefner (.286), James Jones (.317), Bill Cash (.281) and Nat Davis (.239). According to Charleston the combination of Clarkson and Williams would give the Philadelphia Stars one of the best double play combinations he had ever seen.

Williams had an excellent season for the 1949 Philadelphia Stars. Twenty-six (26) box scores with Marvin Williams in the starting line-up have been found for the Philadelphia Stars playing a Negro American League opponent. His complete hitting statistics were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1949	Philadelphia	26	97	19	32	7	3	3	18	6	.330	.557

The pitching staff for the 1949 Philadelphia Stars included Robert Griffith (9-3), Henry "Hank" Miller (6-4), Gene Thompson (4-0), Wilmer Harris (4-4), Bill Ricks (4-8), Barney Brown (1-8), Jonas Gaines (0-4), Jimmy Dean and Joe Filmore.



Philadelphia Stars (1949)
Negro American League

(Standing left to right – Herb Hill, Robert Griffith, Stanley Glenn, Art Hefner, Bill Ricks, Bill Cash, Henry Miller, Wilmer Harris, Will Thompson, **Marvin Williams**, Jimmy Armstead, Barney Brown, **James "Buz" Clarkson**, Lefty Jones, Ben Little, Jimmy Dean, Murray Watkins and **Oscar Charleston**.)

Before the start of the 1949 season, Oscar Charleston took his team through two weeks of conditioning in Philadelphia and then on a short barnstorming tour through the Carolinas. After their return from the Carolinas, the Philadelphia Stars played a double header versus the Bushwicks of New York. The Stars opened their Negro American League season on May 1st in Louisville against the Louisville Buckeyes. When the season started Oscar Charleston felt his team would be a contender for the "league" championship. Unfortunately the Philadelphia Stars struggled through a mediocre season.

The Philadelphia Stars finished the 1949 season with a losing record of 31-38 (.449) and in fourth place in the final Negro American League Eastern Division. The Baltimore Elite Giants with a record of 59-30 (.663) won the Eastern Division and went on to beat the Chicago American Giants (48-35) in the Negro American League play-offs.

Williams Returns to the Ponce Leones

After conclusion of the 1949 Negro National League season, Marvin signed with the Ponce Leones to play baseball in Puerto Rico for the 1949-50 winter league season. The Ponce Leones recruited several other former Negro League players for the winter league season. These players were Lorenzo "Piper" Davis (59 RBI and .293BA), Barney Serrell (.289), "Buster" Clarkson (13 HR, 56 RBI and .286 BA), Lonnie Summers (.254), Marvin Williams (.248), Pancho Coimbre (.243) and Felo Guilbe (.215). Marvin had an off season with only 44 hits in 183 at bats. He had 23 bases on balls, 31 runs scored, 8 doubles, 1 triple, 2 homeruns and 24 runs batted in.

Luis Arroyo (11-5), Jose Santiago (11-8), Bill Powell (7-6) Tomas Quinones (6-1), Gilberto Valentin (5-8) and Booker Mc Daniels (2-5) anchored the pitching staff.

Ponce ended the season tied for second place with Santurce. Both teams had a record of 45-35 (.563). The Caguas Criolles claimed the "league" title with a won-loss record of 47-31 (.603)

At the end of the season Marvin was selected to play in the Puerto Rican All Star game. The all-star game was played between a team of Importados (imports) and the Nativos (Puerto Ricans). Some of the other Negro Leaguers who joined Marvin on the Importados were Dan Bankhead, Willard Brown, Buster Clarkson, Johnny Davis, Leon Day, Wilmer Fields, James "Lefty" La Marque, Alonso Perry, Bill Powell, Earl Taborn and Artie Wilson.

Cleveland Buckeyes have a Disastrous Season

Marvin Williams returned to the Negro Leagues in 1950 to play for the Cleveland Buckeyes who played in the Eastern Division of the Negro American League. According to Marvin in an interview with Dr. Revel it was the worst baseball experience of his life. The Buckeyes had a miserable team and only won three (3) games the entire season. Marvin told Dr. Revel that the team was always in a state of transition (Buckeyes had at least 60 different players playing for them during the 1950 season) and that the team had developed a negative losing attitude which affected the play of everyone on the team.

Some of the better known players who appeared with the Cleveland Buckeyes in 1950 were Otha Bailey (C), Sam Barber (P), Pablo Bernard (2B), Alonso Boone (Mgr/P), Joe Caffie (OF), Frank Evans (OF), Clyde Golden (P), Leonard Pigg (C), Henry Presswood (INF) and Eugene Smith (P).

Box scores have been found for twenty-two (22) games that Marvin played for Cleveland in 1950. Williams went 21 for 84 for a mere .250 batting average. This was the only season that Marvin Williams did not hit at least .330 in the Negro Leagues.

The Cleveland Buckeyes finished the 1950 Negro American League season in a distant last place with an unbelievably pitiful record of 3-39 (.071). The Indianapolis Clowns won the Eastern Division of the Negro American League and the Kansas City Monarchs won the Western Division. No play-off series was held.

Marvin Williams also played in Venezuela during the 1950 season.

Marvin Williams Enters Organized Baseball

On August 24th of 1950 the Sacramento Solons General Manager Jo Jo White signed Marvin Williams to bolster his infield. When Williams signed his contract he became the first African American to play for Sacramento and made Sacramento the fifth Pacific Coast League team (Los Angeles, Oakland, Portland and San Diego) to integrate. According to the Seattle Daily Times Marvin was signed to a free agent contract on the recommendation of R.V. Tyson who the newspaper reported as a baseball enthusiast from Oakland (CA). The Sacramento Bee reported that Williams was most recently playing for Maracaibo in the Venezuelan League. The Sacramento newspaper went on to say that Marvin's debut would be delayed because he was in the process of traveling to Sacramento from Venezuela.



Seattle Daily Times

Seattle, WA
08-24-50

During the season the Solons were led by the hitting of Fuzz White (.323), Jim Busby (.310), Joe Marty (.309) and Bud Soucheck (.291). Marvin Williams appeared in 38 games for the Solons. He collected 30 hits in 120 at bats for a .250 batting average. He did have six homeruns and twenty-one (21) runs batted in during his short time in Sacramento.

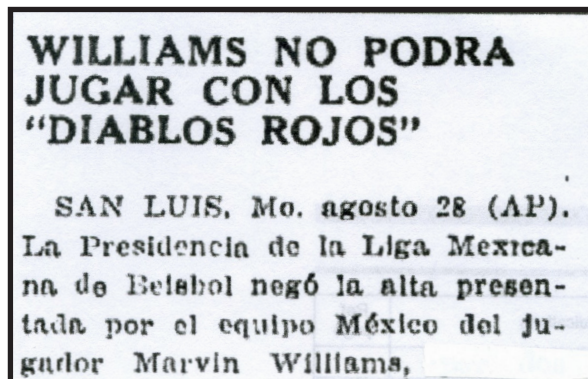
The starting rotation for Sacramento was comprised of Max Surkont (18-13 w/ 2.96 ERA), Bill Evans (15-22 w/ 3.44 ERA), Orval Grove (17-20 w/ 3.32 ERA), Bob Gillespie (12-12 w/ 3.30 ERA) and Harry Gumbert (7-12 w/ 5.35 ERA).

After signing Marvin Williams, the Solons also signed former Negro League pitcher Walt McCoy who went 0-4 with a 6.23 ERA with Sacramento.

The Sacramento Solons ended the season in last place in the Pacific Coast League with a dismal record of 81-119 (.405). They were thirty-seven (37) games behind the Oakland Oaks who went 118-82 (.590) and won the Pacific Coast League title.

Williams Can Not Play for the "Red Devils"

At the same time that Marvin Williams was negotiating a contract with the Sacramento Solons, he was apparently also talking with the owners of the Mexico City Diablos Rojos about coming back to Mexico to play for them. As soon as the Mexican League President heard about this he placed a sanction on Marvin that banned him from the Mexican League. One of the principle reasons for the ban was that Williams had, according to the Mexican League, jumped his contract with Jalisco in 1949 to return to the United States.



Prensa
San Antonio, TX
08-30-50

Marvin Williams Takes a Step Backwards

Mexico had been a very lucrative place for Marvin Williams to play over the years and not being able to return was definitely not in his best interest. To resolve the situation, Marvin and the owners of the Mexico City Diablos Rojos met with Mexican League officials to lift the ban and reinstate Marvin's eligibility to play in Mexico.

After a disappointing 1950 season with the Sacramento Solons of the Pacific Coast League and the Cleveland Buckeyes of the Negro American League, Marvin Williams decided to return to Mexico to play for his old team, the Mexico City Diablos Rojos. Another factor for Marvin not returning to Sacramento was financial. According to Marvin he only made \$ 600 a month with Sacramento and you couldn't live on the West Coast making that kind of money.

On paper the 1951 Mexico City Red Devils looked like a pretty good team. They got good hitting from Negro League players Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright (.365), Marvin Williams (.321), Claro Duany (.289) and Earl Taborn (.248). Marvin Williams started eighty (80) games for Mexico and responded with a .321 batting average and .537 slugging percentage. His complete batting statistics for the 1951 Mexican League season was as follows:

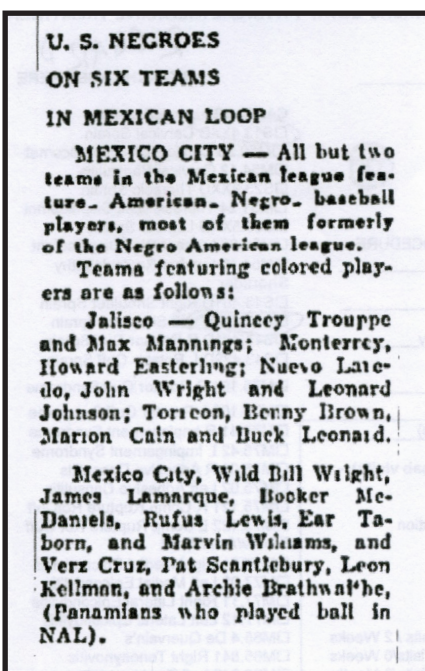
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1951	Mexico City	80	296	58	95	18	5	12	64	8	.321	.537

The Red Devils also had signed Negro League pitchers James "Lefty" La Marque (19-6 w/ 4.17 ERA) and Rufus Lewis (10-9 w/ 3.43 ERA) for the 1951 Mexican League season. Negro Leaguer Booker Mc Daniels and Rufus Lewis also pitched for Mexico City during the 1951 season.

Unfortunately the management of the team was a complete disaster. Ernesto Carmona started the season as the team's manager. He was replaced by Burnis Wright. Marvin Williams even took a turn as manager before Basilio Rosell finished off the season as the manager. Four managers in one season surely isn't a recipe for success.

The 1951 Mexican League season was divided into two halves. The Mexico City Diablos Rojos came in fifth place for the first half of the season with a record of 20-22 (.476). Things went from bad to worse as the Red Devils slipped to seventh place with a dismal record of 17-25 (.407) for the second half of the season. San Luis Potisi (28-14) won the first half of the season and Vera Cruz (29-13) captured the title for the second half of the season.

At the end of the regular season Marvin was named to the Selecion Extranjeros (all star team) to play in the annual Mexican League All Star game against the Selecion Mexicanos. Marvin played second base and left field during the game. He went 2 for 4 with a double in the game. The Selecion Extranjeros won the game by a score of 6 to 3.



Plain Dealer
Kansas City, KS
06-01-51

Winter Ball with Los Mochis

After the conclusion of the 1951 Mexican League season, Marvin played winter league baseball in the Mexican Pacific Coast League for Los Mochis during the winter league season of 1951-52. Los Mochis was managed by Syd Cohen from the United States. The season was closely contested and the championship went down to the final few games of the season. The final standings for the "league" were as follows: Culiacan (35-25), Mazatlan (33-27), Guaymas (28-29), Navojoa (29-31), Los Mochis (26-31) and Ciudad Obregon (26-34).



Marvin Hits Homerun for Los Mochis

Marvin was the leading hitter for Los Mochis and led the "league" in home runs with seventeen (17). Other top players for Los Mochis included Juan Conde, Lacey Curry, Ricardo Garcia, Felipe Montemayor and Raul Navarro.

Williams Destroys Arizona-Texas League Pitching

Prior to the start of the 1952 season Marvin Williams was signed as the player-manager of the Chihuahua Dorados of the Class C Arizona-Texas League. Back in "organized" baseball in the United States, Marvin was determined to show that he had the skills to play baseball at a very high level.

Marvin Williams had the best season of his career during the 1952 season. He led the Arizona-Texas League in homeruns (45), runs batted in (131), batting average (.401) and slugging percentage (.854). His complete hitting statistics for the 1952 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1952	Chihuahua	117	397	136	159	27	9	45	131	10	.401	.854

In addition to putting up such big numbers, Marvin only struck out 34 times during the entire season. He also finished second in the "league" in walks. Marvin Williams was virtually a one man show for the Dorados. Of the 104 homeruns hit by the team, Marvin hit 45 of them. At the end of the season Marvin Williams was named the Arizona-Texas League Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Sometimes one ball player can lift a club out of the red. Chihuahua, of the Class C. Arizona-Texas circuit, attracted 38,318 for its first 14 games. The answer? A gent named Marvin Williams connected for 21 homers in the first 35 games played. Chihuahua is in third place.

Daily Illinois State Journal

Springfield, IL
06-04-52

Some of the Dorados other top hitters during the season were Francisco Martinez (.340), Candelario Diaz (.336), former Negro Leaguer Jesse Blackman (.318) and Rodolfo Morales (.313). The pitching staff for Chihuahua included Ladislao Zamora (16-14), Jesus Avila (11-11), Aurelio Espinqueta (10-10) and former Negro Leaguer Rufus Lewis (8-15).

With Marvin Williams putting up unbelievable numbers, Chihuahua set attendance records. In the first 14 games of the season they drew 38,318 fans which for Class C ball was very impressive. Marvin's hot streak at the plate resulted in 21 homeruns in the team's first 35 games. Williams' batting streak lasted the entire season.

On June 25th Marvin Williams was named the manager of the Dorados. He succeeded Domingo Santana as manager. Unfortunately, Marvin didn't experience the same success as the team's manager as he had as the team's best player.

Williams First Negro To Pilot Mixed Team
PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—Believed to be the first Negro ever named to manage a mixed team in organized baseball, Marvin Williams last night was appointed pilot of the Chihuahua, Mex., club in the Class C Arizona-Texas League.
Williams, who leads the loop in practically every hitting department, succeeds Domingo Santana as skipper.
Williams is batting over .400 and has 29 home runs, more than twice as many as any other player in the league.

Boston Traveler

Boston, MA
06-26-52

The Chihuahua Dorados finished the season in last place with a disappointing record of 57-83 (.407). The Dorados were twenty-seven and a half games behind the "league" leading Juarez Indios (84-55) at the end of the season. The final 1952 Arizona-Texas League standings were:

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	Games Behind
Juarez Indios	84	55	.604	-
El Paso Texans	79	61	.564	5.5
Phoenix Senators	78	62	.557	6.5
Tucson Cowboys	61	78	.439	23.0
Bisbee-Douglas Cooper Kings	60	80	.429	24.5
Chihuahua Dorados	57	83	.407	27.5

During the 1953 season, Williams played for the Laredo Apaches of the Gulf Coast League and the Mexico City Diablos Rojos of the Mexican League.

The Gulf Coast League was considered Class B baseball in 1953. Teams that played in the Gulf Coast League were the Brownsville Charros, Corpus Christi Aces, Galveston White Caps, Harlingen Capitals, Lake Charles Lakers, Laredo Apaches, Port Arthur Seahawks and Texas City Texans.

Marvin Williams only appeared in twenty-three (23) games for the Laredo Apaches in 1953. He collected twenty-four hits in eighty-six at bats for a respectable .279 batting average.

Marvin Williams Returns to Mexico

When Williams returned to Mexico City to play for the Red Devils in 1953 it was like going home for him. Every season that Marvin had played in Mexico, he put up big numbers and 1953 was no exception. Williams played in forty (40) games for Mexico City in 1953 and posted a .373 batting average with a .529 slugging percentage. His complete hitting statistics for his 1953 Mexican League were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1953	Mexico City	40	153	37	57	12	3	2	29	11	.373	.529

Jose Luis Gomez managed the 1953 Mexico City Diablos Rojos. Marvin Williams was easily the best hitter on his team. Other hitters who put up good numbers for the 1953 season were Mexican great Angel Castro (.338) and Fermin Vasquez (.336). Juan Crespo (18-8 w/ 3.74 ERA) was the ace of the pitching staff.

The 1953 Mexican League season was closely contested the entire season and the championship went down to the final few games of the season. The Nuevo Laredo (43-33) team that was managed by Cuban Hall of Famer Adolfo Luque won the 1953 Mexican League championship by a slight margin over the Monterrey Sultanes. Mexico City finished the season with a record of 32-39 (.451). They were eight and a half games behind Nuevo Laredo.

Marvin Williams spent the winter of 1953-54 on the west coast of Mexico playing in the Mexican Pacific Coast League. He started the winter league season off in Jalisco playing for the Charros and was batting .336 when he was traded to the Mayos de Navojoa who was making a run at the "league" title. The Jalisco team was managed by Adolfo Luque and included several former Negro League players (Dan Bankhead, Jesse Douglas and Sam Hairston). Finishing the season in Navojoa, Marvin batted .309 for the Mayos and hit 11 homeruns. Navojoa fell just one game short of the championship when the season ended.



Dan Bankhead
Jalisco Charros

The 1953-54 Mexican Pacific Coast League season started on October 2, 1953 and ended on February 14, 1954. Teams that played in the "league" and their final season records were as follows: Venados de Mazatlan (48-32), Mayos de Navojoa (47-33), Naranjeros de Hemisillo (39-41-1), Yaquis de Ciudad de Obregon (37-43-1), Charros de Jalisco (35-44-2) and the Tacuarineros de Culican (33-46-4).

Williams Returns to “Organized” Ball

Marvin Williams’ “big” season in Mexico in 1953 made him in high demand for the 1954 baseball season. Williams received a very good offer and signed with the Vancouver Capitanos of the Western International League. Owners of the Capitanos knew Marvin would be an important component for their run for the “league” title and Marvin did not disappoint as he led the team in hitting. Not only did he lead his team in hitting but he also won the Western International League batting title with his .360 batting average. His batting statistics for the 1954 Western International League season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1954	Vancouver	119	456	114	164	32	9	20	90	15	.360	.601



**Vancouver Capitanos
(1954)**

(Williams- second on right)

Other Vancouver hitters who contributed at the plate were Ken Charlton (.349), Dick Greco (.346), Bill Brenner (.337), Bob Wellman (.333) and Ken Richardson (.293).

Bill Brenner who also managed the team was the ace of the pitching staff with a won-loss record of 21-9 and an impressive 2.60 ERA. The remainder of the starting rotation for Vancouver included: George Nichols (16-11), Robert Roberts (12-5), Tom Lovrich (10-6), William Franks (10-9) and Pete Hernandez (9-2).

The Vancouver Capitanos were the best hitting team in the “league” with a .300 team batting average and their pitching staff gave up the fewest runs per game (4.67) of any team in the “league.” The Capitanos needed every thing they had because the Yakima Bears also had a very strong team and the Western International League title came down to the last week of the season with Vancouver prevailing by just one game. The final Western International League standings for the 1954 baseball season were as follows:

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	Games Behind
Vancouver Capitanos	74	49	.602	-
Yakima Bears	80	57	.584	1.0
Lewiston Broncs	77	61	.558	4.5
Spokane Indians	30	24	.556	9.5
Salem Senators	71	66	.518	10.0
Edmonton Eskimos	62	63	.496	13.0
Victoria Tyrees	42	49	.462	16.0
Calgary Stampeders	19	28	.404	17.0
Tri-City Braves	56	81	.409	25.0
Wenatchee Chiefs	54	80	.403	25.5

Winter in Navojoa

The winter of 1954-55 saw Marvin Williams back in the Mexican Pacific Coast League to play winter baseball for the Mayos de Navojoa. On October 24, 1954 Marvin had one of the best games of his career when he hit for the cycle (single, double, triple and home run).

The winter league season started on October 1, 1954 and play concluded on February 13, 1955. The Mayos de Navojoa were managed by American Hub Kittle. They finished the season in third place in the final "league" standings with a record of 49-39-1 (.513). They were six games behind the "league" champion Venados de Mazatlan (47-33-3).

Seattle Rainiers Sign Williams

The Seattle Rainiers of the Pacific Coast League had taken notice of Marvin Williams' outstanding season in Vancouver and thought that he might be able to help the team in their championship run during the 1955 season. Seattle signed Williams with the intention of him being their starting first baseman.

Seattle Rainiers
Pacific Coast League

Spring Training
(1955)



with Lenny Anderson

Williams' Journeys in Baseball

FOR Marvin Williams, a 32-year-old rookie who is leading the Seattle team in every department of extra-base-hit and run-production, this is the third separate venture into organized baseball in a checkered career that included a five-year exile as a Mexican League jumper.

During the past six seasons, the hard-hitting infielder has been in and out of organized baseball five times, shuttling briskly between the United States and various Latin-American countries.

That this is one of his "in" years has been, to date, a source of considerable gratification to his manager, Fred Hutchinson, and to Seattle baseball followers whose spring-training worries had centered around the possibility of a power shortage on the local nine.

At this point, Williams leads the league in runs batted in with 19 and paces the Rainiers in home runs with five, in doubles with five, in total bases with 41 and is tied with George Schmees for the team and league lead in triples at two.



After an outstanding spring training with the Rainiers, Marvin Williams' time with the Seattle Rainiers turned into a disappointment to everyone. He only appeared in 35 games for the Rainiers and hit a career low .231 batting average. The only positive note was that 13 of Marvin's 27 hits for Seattle went for extra bases and he did drive in 22 runs in the short time he was with the team.

When Marvin Williams began to struggle at the plate after the start of the season, the Seattle Rainiers obtained Bill Glynn from Indianapolis to replace Williams on the Rainiers roster.

Seattle Daily Times
04-21-55

Columbia Reds Championship Season (1955)

Columbians Whip Rebels 18-9 to Pass Jacksonville

Marv Williams,
Alvarez Batting
Stars in Battle

It took three hours and 13 minutes and a lot of hits and runs, but Columbia's Reds defeated Montgomery's Rebels 18 to 9 last night at Capital City Park and in so doing moved into the Sally League leadership.

A paid crowd of 1,251 saw the two clubs bang out a total of 33 hits and 27 runs. The winning pitcher was Rick Rotelho, Columbia starting lefthander, and the loser was Earl Wilson, who started for the visitors. But the less said of the pitching, the better.

"Chico" Alvarez, Reds' outfielder, got a triple and four singles in five official times up and Marv Williams, his teammate at third base, had a triple and three doubles in six times up.

Reds Take 5-2 Decision As Thompson, Williams Star Macon to Play Columbia Again Here Tonight

BY JAKE PENLAND
Sports Editor

Bill Thompson and Marvin Williams batted in all the runs yesterday afternoon at Capital City Park in a 5-2 victory achieved by the Columbia Reds despite a 14-hit Macon attack that included two home runs.

COLUMBIA	AB	R	H	PO	A
Alvarez, cf	5	1	1	4	0
Bragan, 2b	5	1	0	1	2
Robinson, lf	4	2	1	1	0
Williams, 3b	5	0	4	1	1
Thompson, 1b	4	1	1	7	1
Gentry, rf	4	1	1	2	0
Bush, c	0	0	0	0	0
Schmidt, c	3	0	0	9	0
Petersen, ss	4	0	2	1	2
Davis, p	4	0	1	1	0
Totals	33	6	11	27	6

AUGUSTA	AB	R	H	PO	A
Veal, ss	3	3	1	2	7
Hoffer, cf	4	2	2	0	1
Karlík, rf	5	0	0	1	0
Mateosky, lf	2	0	1	4	0
Osborne, 1b	4	0	2	13	2
Sarna, 3b	3	0	0	0	0
Oneto, 2b	4	0	1	2	2
Witucki, c	4	0	0	4	0
Trakan, p	3	0	0	1	2
McDurkin	1	0	0	0	0
Froats, p	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	33	5	7	27	14

a-Struck out for Trakan in 8th.
Columbia 400 200 000-6
Augusta 100 200 002-5
E-Alvarez, Hoffer, Sarna, Oneto.
Gentry, RBI-Thompson 2, Gentry, Williams 2, Osborne, Mateosky 2, Karlík.
2B-Williams, Osborne, 3B-Gentry, SF-Mateosky, DP-Osborne, Veal and Osborne.
Left-Columbia 8, Augusta 9.
BB-Davis 7, Trakan 3, SO-Davis 9.
Trakan 3, Froats 1, HO-Trakan 9 in 8 innings; Froats 2 in 1, R-ER-Trakan 6-2, Froats 0-0, WP-Trakan, U-Vanderhoff and Clegg. Time-2:33. A-2,403.

State
Columbia, SC
08-29-55

Marvin goes 4 for 5

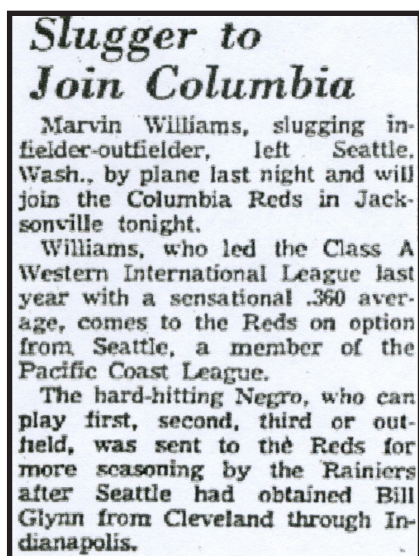
State
Columbia, SC
06-05-55

State
Columbia, SC
08-27-55

BOTELHO HAS SHUTOUT

Reds Have Won 22
Of Last 25 Games

State
Columbia, SC
08-20-55



State
Columbia, SC
05-21-55

Marvin Leads Columbia to a Championship

On May 20th Marvin was sent by Seattle to the Columbia Reds of the Sally League. Columbia was the Class A farm team of the Cincinnati Reds of the National League. Marvin Williams fit right in with the Reds from the minute he hit town. When he arrived in Columbia, the State newspaper asked him about being a 32 year old rookie and Marvin responded as follows: "I have five or six more good years in me as long as I keep my eyes, my legs and my luck." When Marvin arrived in Columbia, Manager Ernie White made Williams the team's starting third baseman.

Williams got off to a slow start in the first couple of games he played for Columbia but by June 18th he was leading the team in hitting with a .340 batting average. Even a shoulder injury in May did not hinder Marvin Williams from having a "big" season in Columbia.

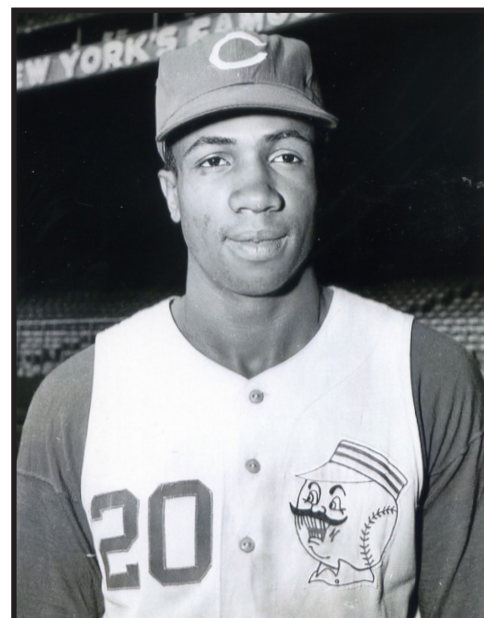
With Marvin Williams' big bat in the line-up and an excellent pitching staff, the Columbia Reds dominated their opponents the entire season. Marvin led the Columbia Reds in hitting for the season even though he played in less games than some of the other starting players. His complete batting statistics for the 1955 Columbia season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1955	Columbia	97	351	70	115	18	7	16	84	1	.328	.556

Other top hitters in the Columbia Reds line-up in 1955 were Jimmy Bragan (.308), Ultus Alvarez (.301) and Barney Martin (.286). Also playing for the Reds was a 19 year old Frank Robinson (15 doubles, 7 triples, 12 HR, .263 BA and .531 slugging percentage). Robinson went on to a long career in the Major Leagues with the Cincinnati Reds that culminated in his election into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The pitching staff for Columbia was anchored by future Major Leaguer Charlie Rabe who went 21-7 (.750) with an amazing 2.01 ERA. Columbia's pitching rotation was rounded out by Jerry Davis (18-12 w/ 2.69 ERA), Rick Botellio (15-9 w/ 3.11 ERA), Barney Martin (8-6 w/ 3.37 ERA) and Clarence Zieser (7-2 w/ 3.00 ERA). The Columbia Reds pitchers compiled a "league" leading 3.53 ERA for the season.

The Columbia Reds ran away with the "league" championship and finished ten games ahead of their closest competition. The highlight of the Reds season came in August when they went on a winning streak that saw them win 22 of 25 games. Marvin was a big part of this winning streak as he took over the club batting lead from Jim Bragan.



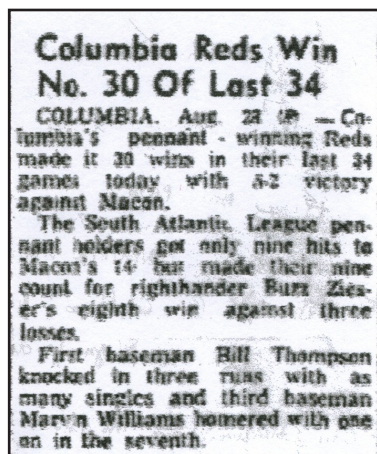
Frank Robinson

South Atlantic (Sally) League All Star Team (1955)

When the South Atlantic (Sally) League named its all-star team for the 1955 season, six (6) members of the Columbia Reds were named to the team. They were Ultus “Chico” Alvarez (outfield), Jim Bragan (second base), Jerry Davis (pitcher), Ernie White (manager), Charlie Rabe (pitcher) and Marvin Williams (third base).



(Top row left to right – Ultus “Chico” Alvarez, Charlie Rabe, Jim Bragan. Bottom row left to right Ernie White, Marvin “Tex” Williams and Jerry Davis)



In a game against Augusta that was reported in the State newspaper, Marvin Williams went 4 for 5 in their 6 to 5 victory. As the month of August came to an end the Columbia Reds increased their hot streak to winning 30 of their last 34 games. In their August 28th win over Macon, Williams hit a two run homerun to give Columbia a 5-2 win. The Columbia Reds closed out the month with a 4-2 win over Macon. Marvin collected 2 runs in 2 official at bats.

Charleston News
Charleston, SC
08-29-55

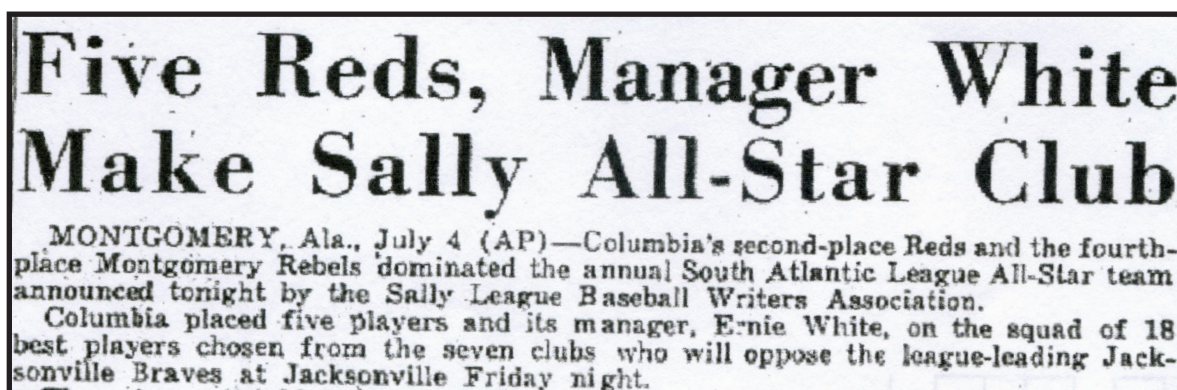
The final Sally League standings for the 1955 season were as follows:

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	Games Behind
Columbia Reds	89	51	.636	-
Jacksonville Braves	79	61	.564	10.0
Augusta Tigers	76	64	.543	13.0
Montgomery Rebels	75	64	.540	13.5
Macon Peaches	67	73	.479	22.0
Savannah A's	61	79	.436	28.0
Columbus Cardinals	58	91	.417	30.5
Charlotte Hornets	54	86	.386	35.0

Columbia Reds Moving Closer to Sally League Pennant

State
Columbia, SC
08-17-55

Marvin Williams' outstanding play with the Columbia Reds got him selected to the Sally All Star team. Also selected from the Columbia Reds were Chico Alvarez (OF), James Bragan (2B), Gerald Davis (P), Charlie Rabe (P) and Ernie White (manager). Unfortunately Williams was unable to play in the game due to a nagging shoulder injury.



State
Columbia, SC
07-05-55



Mayos de Navojoa
Mexican Pacific Coast League

(Back row left to right – Angel Abrea, **William “Wild Bill” Serena**, B. O’Neil, **Neil Chrisley**, Balamero “Melo” Almada, Mike Rodriguez, “Colero” Arias, Garcia, **Marvin Williams** and **John “Windy” McCall**. Seated left to right – **Mario Ariosa**, Regino Vazquez, Felipe “Burro” Hernandez, Roberto “Chamaco” Vea, **Miguel “Pilo” Gaspar**, Hector “Chero” Mayer, Espinosa, Trujillo, “Bule” Guzman and Guillermo “Bachichas” Frayde. Front row left to right – **Marcelino Solis**, Nicolas Genesta and “El Zacate” the Bat Boy.)

A Winter in Mexico

With a big season with the Columbia Reds, Marvin Williams was in high demand by several teams to play winter baseball. After reviewing his options, Marvin signed with Navojoa of the Mexican Pacific Coast League. Competition in the “league” was fierce because of all the Major League players and Negro League players that were signed. Major League players who spent their 1955-56 winter season in the Mexican Pacific Coast League were Hank Aguirre, Ruben Amaro, Earl Averill, Bob Bowman, Jerry Cassale (P), Neil Chrisley, Al Grunwald, Charley Lau, Hub Kittle, Jim Lemon, Al Schroll, Bill Serena, Milt Smith and Dom Zanni. Mario Ariosa, Sam Hairston, Barney Serrell and Milton Smith were some of the Negro Leaguers who played in the “league” during the season.

Marvin led his team in hitting with a .361 batting average. He also led the “league” in doubles (16), runs batted in (40) and slugging average (.619). His batting statistics for the season were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1955-56	Navojoa	42	155	37	56	16	-	8	40	3	.361	.619

Navojoa played competitive ball all season, led the “league” with a team batting average of .274 and finished the season with a won-loss record of 31-25 (.554). They ended up in second place only a game and a half behind the “league” leading Culiacan club who went 33-23 (.579). In the play-off series that followed the regular season Navojoa defeated Culican in the first round but unfortunately fell to Hermosillo in the championship series.

Championship with Hermosillo

After the Mexican Pacific Coast League play-off series Hermosillo recruited Marvin Williams to play for them in the post season. Hermosillo already had a strong team that included future Major Leaguers Earl Averill, Wayne Belardi, Bob Bowman and Mel Queen but Hermosillo management knew Marvin Williams' "big" bat would bolster their hitting attack. The primary focus of Hermosillo's post season was a two game series in February of 1956 against a team representing the Liga Veracruzana for the "Championship of Winter Baseball in Mexico." Newspaper accounts list the team from the Liga Veracruzana as "Mexico." Team Mexico was led by Major Leaguer Roberto "Beto" Avila who played second base. Only one box score has currently been found for the series. In this game Marvin played first base and right field for Hermosillo. He went three for five with a run scored in the game. The box score didn't give extra base hits. Hermosillo easily won the game by a score of 13 to 3 and went on to win the second game by a score of 5 to 3. No box score has been found for the second game.

At the end of the 1955-56 Mexican Pacific Coast League season, Marvin Williams was selected to the "league's" all star team. Also selected for the Mexican Pacific Coast League all star team (Liga de la Costa) were Major League and Negro League players Earl Averill (C), Bob Bowman (OF), Jerry Cassale (P), Angel Castro (1B), Neil Chrisley (OF), Sam Hairston (C), Jim Lemon (OF), Al Schroll (P), Barney Serrell ((2B), Milt Smith (2B) and Dom Zanni (P).

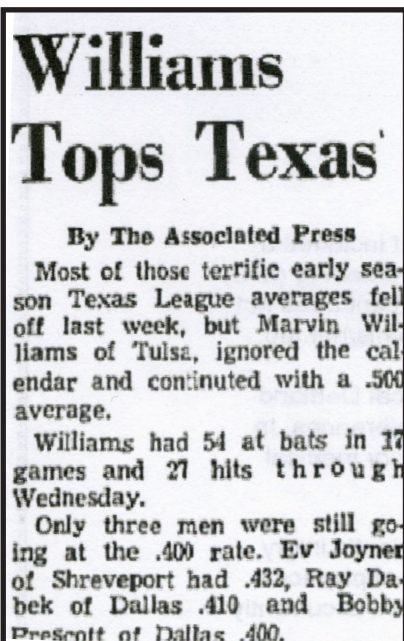
The Liga de la Costa all stars played a four game series against an all star team from the Liga Invernal de Veracruzana. The first two games of the series went to the Liga Veracruzana by the scores of 11-9 and 4-1. The Mexican Pacific Coast League (Liga de la Costa) all stars came back and won games three and four. They beat the Liga Veracruzana in games three and four by the scores of 4-3 and 6-4. Williams played left field in game one, first base in game three and first base in game four. Marvin went 4 for 12 for a .333 batting average in the three games that he played.

Marvin Williams Becomes a Tulsa Oiler

Before the start of the 1956 season, Marvin Williams was recruited to play for the Tulsa Oilers of the Texas League. The Oilers were the Double A farm club of the Chicago Cubs of the National League. Marvin played in Tulsa for three straight seasons from 1956-1958. Other than the Philadelphia Stars (1943-1945) this was the longest consecutive streak that Marvin had with one team during his professional baseball career.

Even though he was 36 years old, Tulsa management felt Marvin could contribute in the team's starting line-up. Williams proved Tulsa management right by getting off to a hot hitting streak at the start of the season. In his first 54 at bats at the start of the 1956 season, he collected 27 hits for a .500 batting average. By mid-July he was hitting .339 with 19 homeruns and on July 13th the State newspaper reported that Marvin Williams had hit five homeruns in three nights. This feat had not been accomplished in the Texas League since 1924.

Williams played everywhere for the Oilers during the season. He played 53 games at second base, 52 games at first base, 37 games at third base and 11 games in right field. Marvin did not disappoint the Tulsa owners.



Marvin Gets Off to a Hot Start

Corpus Christi Caller Times
Corpus Christi, TX
05-13-56



Tulsa Oilers (1956)
Texas League

(Front row left to right – Lloyd Jenny, Vic Marasco, Frank Virdi, **Marvin Williams**, Gene Tanselli, President Grayle Howlett, Manager Al Widmar, Lee Bohlander, Bob Will, Frank Ernaga and Jim Fanning.
 Back Row left to right – Trainer John Tabor, Bill Tremel, Harry Parkowski, Vicente Amor, Al Lary, Marlin Stuart, Bill Currie, Dale Mathewson.)

Marvin Williams led the Oilers in virtually every hitting category. His complete statistics for the 1956 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1956	Tulsa	144	534	102	172	36	7	26	111	1	.322	.562

When he joined the Tulsa Oilers he was reunited with former Negro League super star, Willard “Homerun” Brown, who also had a very good season in Tulsa with 14 homeruns, 73 runs batted in and a .299 batting average. Besides Brown and Williams, the team also had two other former Negro League players in their starting line-up at different times during the season. They were Frank Carswell (8 HR, 38 RBI and .285 BA) and James “Buster” Clarkson (5 HR, 19 RBI and .255 BA).

The only starter other than Marvin Williams to hit over .300 for the season was future Major League outfielder Bob Will who banged out 45 doubles, 5 triples, 10 home runs, 73 runs batted in and a .304 batting average.

The starting rotation (which was marginal at best) for the 1956 Tulsa Oilers included Al Widmar (11-11 w/ 4.07), Dale Mathewson (10-4 w/ 2.85 ERA), Ernest Groth (9-16 w/ 5.33 ERA), Al Larry (8-14 w/ 3.59 ERA) and former Negro Leaguer Jehosie “Jay” Heard (7-10 w/4.84 ERA). Al Tremmel (11-6 w/ 4.23 ERA) was the first man out of the bull pen.

Other than Marvin Williams the Tulsa Oilers only got mediocre hitting (.262 team batting average) during the season and that combined with sub-par pitching (4.19 team ERA), the Tulsa Oilers finished the 1956 Texas League season with a record of 77-77 (.500). They ended up in fourth place in the final “league” standings and were nineteen (19) games behind the Houston Buffaloes who won the Texas League title.

Marvin Williams' exemplary play for the Tulsa Oilers got him selected to the 1956 Texas League All Star team. Because of his versatility on the field, Marvin was selected as the utility infielder for the team. Other notable players who went on to play in the Major Leagues that also got selected to the all star team were: Harry "The Hat" Walker (manager), Jim Gentile (1B), Bobby Malkmus (2B), Ruben Amaro (SS), Dick Gray (3B), Don Demeter (OF), Bob Smith (OF), Tom Hughes (P) and Bob Mabe (P). The Texas League All Stars played the "league" leading Dallas Eagles at Burnett Field in Dallas. The Eagles were led by the hitting of Joe Macko (1B), Jim Davenport (SS) and Andre Rogers.

Six .300 Hitters Picked For Texas All-Star Team

By The Associated Press

Six .300 hitters and four pitchers who have won 10 or more games are on the Texas League All-Star team that meets leading Dallas Thursday night in the sixteenth annual game.

Fort Worth led in selections, placing five men on the club, while Houston was second with four and had the only player who closely approached unanimous choice—Tom Hughes, a pitcher with a 12-4 record. Hughes needed only one vote.

The team was announced Saturday by the Texas League Baseball Writers. It was compiled from votes of the sports writers, sportscasters and managers.

Walker Manager

Harry (The Hat) Walker, manager of Houston, was picked to pilot the team against Dallas in Dallas. Dallas is host to the game because it led the league as of July 11.

The all-star squad is made up of 19 players because there was a tie for one of the pitching positions between Duane Wilson of Oklahoma City and Carl Scheib of San Antonio. Thus, the all-stars will have

eight pitchers instead of the regulation seven.

Here was the team selected by the writers (batting and pitching records in parentheses):

Team Members

Catchers—Les Peden, Shreveport (.294), and Lloyd Jenney, Tulsa (.331)

First base—Jim Gentile, Fort Worth (.311).

Second base—Bobby Malkmus, Austin (.260).

Shortstop—Ruben Amaro, Houston, (.279).

Third base—Dick Gray, Fort Worth, (.306).

Utility infielder—Marvin Williams, Tulsa (.338).

Left field—Ev Joyner, Shreveport, (.375).

Center field—Don Demeter, Fort Worth, (.275).

Right field—Ken Guettler, Shreveport (.286).

Utility outfielder—Bob Smith, Houston, (.314).

Pitchers—Tom Hughes, Houston (12-4); Bob Mabe, Houston (13-7); Rudy Paynich, Fort Worth (12-5); Federico Olivo, Austin (9-7); Dale Matthewson, Tulsa (10-2); Dick Hanlon, Fort Worth (9-4); Duane Wilson, Oklahoma City (9-6), and Carl Scheib, San Antonio (4-2).

Corpus Christi Caller Times
Corpus Christi, TX
07-15-56

In early August of 1956, Marvin Williams got his hopes up that he might have a path to the Major Leagues when the Cincinnati Reds obtained an option on Williams' contract. Nothing ever came of the deal.

Dallas Morning News
Dallas, TX
08-07-56

Cincinnati Monday announced it had obtained an option to buy Tulsa Infielder Marvin Williams from Tulsa. Williams, currently playing second base, is hitting .324, has 23 home runs and has batted in 94.

Marvin Finds a Home in Tulsa

Williams returned to the Tulsa Oilers for the 1957 Texas League season. Like the season before Marvin played anywhere the manager put him. Williams played more games (58) at third base than any other position (first base -17 games, second base – 24 games and outfield - 38 games).

Williams had an off year at the plate in 1957. He only hit .253 with a career low .367 slugging percentage. His complete 1957 hitting statistics were as follows:

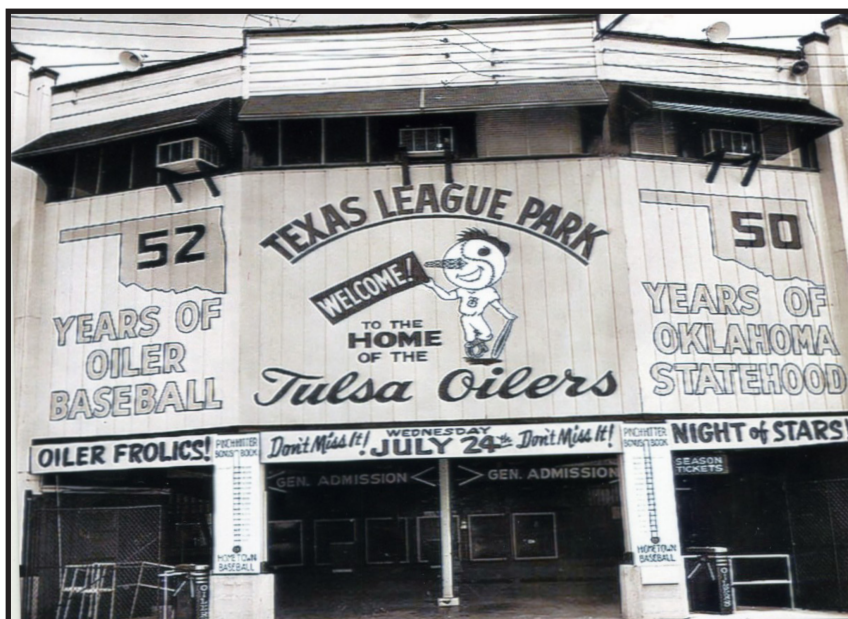
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1957	Tulsa	134	466	53	118	23	3	8	76	2	.253	.367

Future Major Leaguer Jim Frey (.336), Harry Fisher (.297), Domenick Ditusia (.286) and Bobby Winkles (.279) led the Tulsa Oilers in hitting during the 1957 season. As a team the Tulsa Oilers only had a .254 team batting average.

The pitching staff for the 1957 Oilers included Earl Mosser (11-7 w/ 3.43 ERA), Ron Mrozinski (11-13 w/ 3.82 ERA), Norm Camp (9-8 w/ 3.18 ERA), Al Widmar (9-12 w/ 3.42 ERA), Bob Conley (7-3 w/ 2.19 ERA), John Anderson (7-4 w/ 2.41 ERA), Dale Mathewson (5-9 w/ 3.46) and Hollis Robertson (5-6 w/ 3.29 ERA).

Even though the pitching staff had lowered their team ERA from 4.19 in 1956 to 3.75 in 1957, they were still the third worst pitching staff in the Texas League. Poor pitching combined with weak hitting resulted in the Tulsa Oilers having a losing won-loss record of 75-79 (.487) for the 1957 Texas League season. They finished in fourth place and were 27 games behind the Dallas Eagles (102-52) who won the championship.

During the 1957 season as they had done since the mid-1930's the Tulsa Oilers called Texas League Park their home field.



Texas League Park

Tulsa, OK

Williams Winters in Mexico

After the 1957 season, Marvin Williams was signed by Vera Cruz to play in the 1957-58 Mexican Winter League. Marvin had a good winter season in Mexico. He went 77 for 232 for a .332 batting average. He also hammered out 11 homeruns for Vera Cruz.

Marvin Returns to Tulsa

Going into the 1958 Texas League season and coming off a disappointing 1957 season there was a significant concern if Marvin Williams was too old to play baseball at a high level. Tulsa management decided to stick with him and Marvin rewarded them for their confidence in his playing ability. Marvin who always thrived on pressure didn't give Tulsa management an opportunity to rethink their decision. Tulsa management decided to stick with him and Marvin rewarded them for their confidence in his playing ability. On May 11th the Corpus Christi Caller Times reported that Marvin Williams currently had 31 hits in 76 at bats for a .408 batting average and was currently in fourth place in the Texas League race for the batting title. By June 22nd Marvin was still sporting a .358 batting average (81 for 226). Williams also had 6 homeruns and 38 runs batted in. At the time he had the second best batting average in the Texas League. Less than a week later on June 28th the Corpus Christi Caller Times reported that Marvin Williams had taken over the lead for Texas League batting title with a .355 batting average (93 for 260).

Individual Batting								
	AB	R	H	2b	3b	HR	BA	
Sinovic, An	28	7	15	1	0	7	.536	
Hatton, SA	49	4	21	2	0	7	.429	
Macko, FW	34	8	14	3	0	7	.412	
Williams, M. TI	76	11	31	6	0	13	.408	
Lutz, CC	76	22	30	6	1	22	.395	
Peoples, An	56	15	20	1	0	18	.357	

Corpus Christi Caller Times
Corpus Christi, TX
05-11-58

INDIVIDUAL BATTING									
	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rb	ba	
Murray, R. CO	136	18	46	4	0	6	24	.365	
Williams, M. TI	226	36	81	16	2	6	38	.358	
Van Noy, CO	28	3	10	4	0	0	2	.357	

Corpus Christi Caller Times
Corpus Christi, TX
06-22-58

BATTING (100 or More AB)			
	AB	H	BA
Williams M. TI.....	260	93	.355
Murray R. CC.....	144	51	.354
Miles Vc	109	38	.349
Fisher, TI	167	56	.335
Baro. SA	155	62	.335

Corpus Christi Caller Times
Corpus Christi, TX
06-28-58

Marvin Williams Starts the 1958 Season off on a Hot Streak

At the plate Marvin rebounded from his performance in 1957. Over the season his batting average went up 41 points from .253 to .294 and his slugging percentage went up 110 points from .367 to .477.

Marvin Williams' complete hitting statistics for the 1958 Texas League season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1958	Tulsa	144	524	76	154	33	3	19	88	2	.294	.477

Other Tulsa players that contributed offensively during the season were Harry Fisher (.328), Ramon Conde (.314), Eddy Logan (.299), Mickey Harrington (.291) and Jim Snyder (.290). The Tulsa Oilers had a team batting average of .260 for the season which was the third best in the entire Texas League.

Ron Mrozinski (15-13 w/ 3.27 ERA), Bob Greenwood (14-13 w/ 4.34 ERA), Norm Camp (12-11 w/ 3.78 ERA), Jim Golden (10-16 w/ 3.95 ERA) and Don Erickson (8-9 w/ 2.96 ERA) were the team's best pitchers during the season.

The biggest disappointment for Tulsa during the season was their fielding. They committed 205 errors in 152 games for a .965 fielding percentage. This was the worst in the "league."

The Tulsa Oilers ended the 1958 season in next to last place in the Texas League with a record of 71-81 (.467). They were 17.5 games behind the Fort Worth Cats (89-64) who ran away from all their competitors for the "league" title.

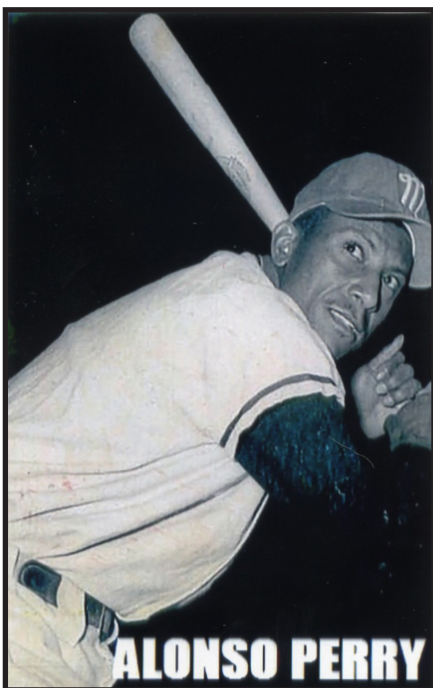
Marvin Williams was selected as the first baseman for the 1958 Texas League All Star team. Other top players in the Texas League in 1958 were Frank Funk (P), Sam Hairston (C), Grady Hatten and Ray Murray (C).

Marvin Williams Returns to Mexico

Before the start of the 1959 baseball season Marvin Williams signed a contract to return to Mexico to play in the Mexican League. His decision was very simple: he made significantly more money south of the border. In Mexico he was still a recognized star and his services were always in demand. Marvin played for both the Mexico City Red Devils and Mexico City Tigres in 1959.

At 39 years of age he still put up big numbers south of the border. Marvin belted out 29 homeruns, drove in 109 runs and compiled a .587 slugging average. All three of these led the Mexican League for the 1959 season. His combined hitting statistics for both the Red Devils and Tigres were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1959	Mexico City	109	378	76	117	14	2	29	109	1	.310	.587



With the Mexico City Red Devils Marvin played with Al Pinkston (13 HR, 97 RBI, .369 BA and .547 SA) and Alonso Perry (12 HR, 94 RBI, .333 BA and .514 SA). Both Pinkston and Perry had played in the Negro Leagues and were super stars in Latin America.

Poza Rico (84-62) dominated play during the 1959 Mexican League season. The Mexico City Red Devils finished the season in third place in the final "league" standings with a record of 74-72 (.507) and the Mexico City Tigres ended the season in last place in the six team league with a dismal record of 39-104 (.273). The Red Devils were 10 games out of first place and the Tigres were 43.5 games behind the "league" leading Poza Rico team.

Marvin Williams was selected to play first base for the Liga Mexicana all-star team in their game against the Liga Texas. The Liga Mexicana team beat the Liga Texas team 9 to 3.



¡AJÁ LA VA!!! Con dramático jonrón a las gradas del left, Marvin Williams empató a una carrera el juego en el séptimo acto. Herrera, Osorio, Robles, Palafox y Vázquez en el comité de recepción.

Marvin Williams Hits Homerun for the Mexico City Red Devils

Hit

(Mexican Baseball Magazine)
09-25-59

In the post season of 1959 Marvin Williams accompanied the Mexico City Red Devils when they traveled to Austin (TX) to play the Austin Senators of the Texas League for the Pan American Association championship. The play-off series was billed as the champions of Mexico playing the champions of Texas. Austin's Charley Gorin pitched a no-hitter against the Mexico City Red Devils to give Austin the championship title. Austin won the game by a score of 2-0.

Williams Leads Winter League in Hitting and Wins a Championship

During the 1959-60 winter league season, Marvin Williams played for the Puebla Pericos in the Liga Invernal Veracruzana (Mexico). At 40 years of age he could still hit the ball which he proved during the winter league season by leading the Liga Invernal Veracruzana with a .420 batting average. His complete hitting statistics for the 1959-60 season in Mexico were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1959-60	Puebla	24	88	30	37	-	-	11	27	-	.420	-

With Marvin Williams (.420), Eddie Moore (21 homeruns) and former Negro Leaguer/Major Leaguer Dan Bankhead (.406) in the starting line-up, the Puebla Pericos won the Liga Invernal League championship with a record of 24-14 (.632). The Pericos hit with devastating power. Led by the trio of Edward "Eddie" Moore (21 homeruns), Dick Czekaj (14 homeruns) and Marvin Williams (11 homeruns) Puebla scored runs in bunches during the season. As a team the Puebla Pericos hit 70 homeruns as compared to the Cafeteros 24 homeruns. To the delight of their fans, the majority of the Perico's home runs were hit at their home field which was Ignacio Zaragoza Park in Puebla.



Puebla Pericos
Liga Invernal Veracruzana
(1959-60)

(**Marvin Williams** – standing first on left and **Dan Bankhead** – standing fourth on left)

The other teams in the “league” and their won-loss records were the Jalapa Chileros (24-16), Cordoba Cafeteros (15-24) and Camoterros (14-23). The Camoterros were the biggest disappointment of the “league” because they had what should have been a strong team of former Negro League players that included Mario Ariosa, Al Pinkston, Bicho Pedroso and Earl Taborn.

Former Negro Leaguer Lino Donoso was the Pericos and “league’s” leading pitcher with a record of 7-1 (.875) and 3.26 ERA.

Marvin Williams was selected to the Liga Veracruzana all star team as one of their outfielders for the 1959-60 season. Also selected to the all star team were Alonso Perry (Manager), Mario Ariosa (INF), Dan Bankhead (1B), Charlie Beamon (P), Chuck Cottier (INF), Lino Donoso (P), Wenceslao Gonzalez (P), Al Pinkston (OF), Dave Roberts (utility) and Earl Taborn (C). There were two all star teams; one named the “Extranjeros” was made up of non-Mexican players and the other was named the “Mexicanos.” The Mexicanos were led by Roberto “Beto” Avila and Leo Rodriguez.

Marvin Williams Concludes a Brilliant Mexican League Career

The 1959 season was Marvin Williams’ last in the Mexican League. He would, however, continue to play in lower level leagues in Mexico until 1963.

Marvin Williams played parts of six (6) seasons in the Mexican League during the regular season. He never failed to bat over .300 and compiled an impressive career batting average of .334 and a slugging percentage of .579. His career hitting statistics in the Mexican League during regular season play were as follows:

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Total	361	1362	297	455	76	27	68	314	35	.334	.579

Williams Returns to the United States

After a very successful season in Mexico in 1959, Marvin was signed by the Victoria Rosebuds of the Texas League. The Victoria Rosebuds were the Double A farm team of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Williams only appeared in five games as a pinch hitter for Victoria during the 1959 season. He collected two hits in his five plate appearances.

Second Game									
SAN ANTONIO					RIO GRANDE				
ab	r	h	e	bi	ab	r	h	e	bi
Hartman ss	5	1	2	0	Mata cf	5	2	2	0
Drake 3b	5	0	1	0	Strange 2b	4	1	2	1
Murphy rf	4	0	0	1	Hillier 2b	5	2	2	1
Williams 1b	5	1	2	1	Orsina c	2	1	0	0
Ducote cf	4	0	3	0	Stubing 1b	4	2	3	5
Geller lf	4	0	2	0	Alomar rf	5	1	2	3
Massa c	2	0	1	0	Weekley lf	3	0	0	0
Embry c	0	0	0	0	Carmona ss	5	1	2	2
Papovich 2b	4	0	3	0	Bowers p	2	0	0	0
Curtis p	1	1	0	0	Tiffin p	1	0	0	0
McIntire	1	0	0	0					
McCabe p	0	0	0	0					
bRogers	1	0	0	0					
Gerard p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	34	3	14	3	Totals	36	12	13	13

a—Filed out for Curtis in 4th; b—Struck out for McCabe in 4th.

San Antonio 818 898 808—3
Rio Grande Valley 929 944 923—12

E—Papovich 2, Strange, Carmona, PO—A—San Antonio 24-6, Rio Grande Valley 26-12. DP—Strange, Hillier and Stubing, Stubing, Carmona and Stubing; Stubing, Carmona and Bowers, Hartman and Drake. LOB—San Antonio 12, Rio Grande Valley 7.

7B—Carmona, Strange, Ducat, HR—Stubing 3B—Stubing, Alomar, Strange, S—Strange, SF—Murphy.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Curtis (L, 18-7) ...	5	5	6	4	4	2
McCabe	2	4	4	3	2	1
Gerard	1	4	2	2	1	0
Bowers (W, 13-8) .	5	10	3	2	4	2
Tiefenthaler . . .	4	4	0	0	0	3

VP—Bowers. PB—Massa. U—Forman. Valentine. T—2 35. A—1198.

Marv Bats Clean-up for Missions

Corpus Christi Caller Times

Corpus Christi, TX

09-01-60

Marvin Williams returned to the Victoria Rosebuds who were now the Double A farm team of the Detroit Tigers for the 1960 Texas League season. By the mid-summer Williams was playing first base for the San Antonio Missions of the Texas League. Williams only had a mediocre season at the plate in 1960. His combined batting statistics for the Rosebuds and Missions for the 1960 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1960	Victoria San Antonio	94	297	52	83	13	2	17	54	0	.279	.508

Marvin Williams finished out the 1960 season with the San Antonio Missions.

The Victoria Rosebuds (77-69) ended the season in fourth place and the San Antonio Missions (77-68) finished the season in second place in the final 1960 Texas League standings. The Rio Grande Valley Giants (85-59) were the Texas League champions.

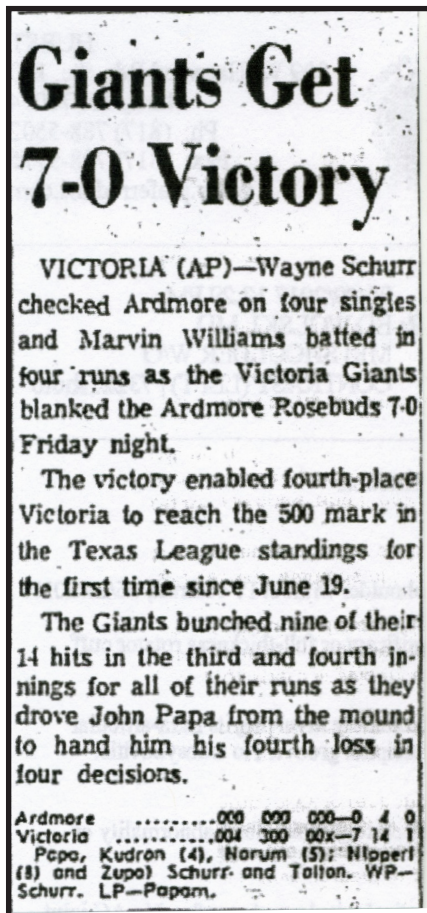
Marvin Williams returns to Victoria

Marvin started the 1961 season with the Victoria Rosebuds. During the 1961 season Marvin Williams played for both the Victoria-Ardmore Rosebuds (Baltimore Orioles organization) and the Rio Grande-Victoria Giants (San Francisco Giants organization). The Rio Grande-Victoria Giants (69-71) ended the season in next to last place and the Victoria-Ardmore Rosebuds (57-83) finished in last place in the final "league" standings. The Amarillo Gold Sox (90-50) won the 1961 Texas League title.

The Victoria-Ardmore Rosebuds had a very weak hitting team with a .242 team batting average. Even though Marvin had an off season, he was still the leading hitter for the Rosebuds.

Marvin Williams' statistics for the 1961 Texas League season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1961	Victoria-Ardmore Rio Grande Valley-Victoria Giants	116	354	55	98	16	2	10	71	2	.277	.418



The Victoria-Ardmore Rosebuds also had the worst pitching staff in the Texas League with a 4.39 ERA and a 5.42 runs per game average.

Jose Tartabull (31 Doubles, 6 HR, 50 RBI and .304 BA) and John Weekly (21 HR, 82 RBI and .287 BA) were the top two hitters for the Giants. Marvin Williams was the team's third best hitter for the Rio Grande Valley-Victoria Giants.

This was Marvin Williams last season in "organized" baseball in the United States.

Marvin Williams Plays His Last Season as a Professional Ball Player

Marvin's last season in professional baseball was the 1962-63 season when he played for Puerto Mexico who represented the port city of Coatzacoalcas. Puerto Mexico played in the Liga Invernal Veracruzana. Also playing in the "league" during the 1962-63 season were Martinez de la Torre, Minatitlan and Xalapa. Leading Puerto Mexico (Coatzacoalcas) in hitting during the season were Julio Becquer (15 HR and .403 BA), Cuco Toledo (.303), Duke Darden (8 HR and .302 BA) and Hector Rodriguez (.285). Reportedly, Marvin only played in 12 games and went 10 for 40 for a .250 batting average.

Marvin Drives in Four Runs
Corpus Christi Caller Times
 Corpus Christi, TX
 08-05-61

Life after Baseball

After he retired from professional baseball, Marvin got a job at the Sears and Roebuck store in Victoria (Texas). He started working there part time and became a full time employee when local millionaire and huge baseball proponent Tom O'Connell intervened on his part with the store manager. Evidently, O'Connell agreed to make a very large purchase at the store as long as Marvin had a full time position. It wasn't long before Marvin was able to get a transfer to the Sears store in his hometown of Conroe (Texas). Back in Conroe he and his wife Gloria raised their two children Marvin Jr. and Billy. According to Marvin he worked for the Sears and Roebuck Company for nineteen (19) years.

Marvin Williams passed away on December 23, 2000 at the age of 77 years old. He was laid to rest in Rosewood Cemetery in his hometown of Conroe, Texas.

Final Thoughts

After reviewing our research everyone should agree that Marvin Williams was an outstanding ball player and has never been given the credit he so justly deserves. What is still left is to look at the man Marvin Williams was. The one word that best categorizes Marvin is humble.

When I first started looking into his career in the early 1990's, I asked numerous former Negro League players who he played with and against him about his whereabouts. No one knew what had happened to him after his baseball career or where he was living or if he even was still alive. Most players I talked with thought he had passed away. My approach to locating Marvin was very simple – start at the beginning. I started looking in his hometown of Conroe, Texas. It didn't take me long to locate him.

During the first interview that I had with him one of his sons was in attendance. His son was very leery about why a doctor from Dallas would drive down to Conroe and be excited to talk with their dad. When I asked his son what he knew about their father's playing career the response that I got was "I knew dad played a little baseball when he was younger." He did not have a clue about what a great baseball player his father had been.



When I asked Marvin how he was able to hit over .300 on a consistent basis over his twenty plus year career, he responded as follows: "Well Doc it was really pretty simple. If you didn't produce (hit) they would cut you and send you home. I was a ball player and didn't want to go home."

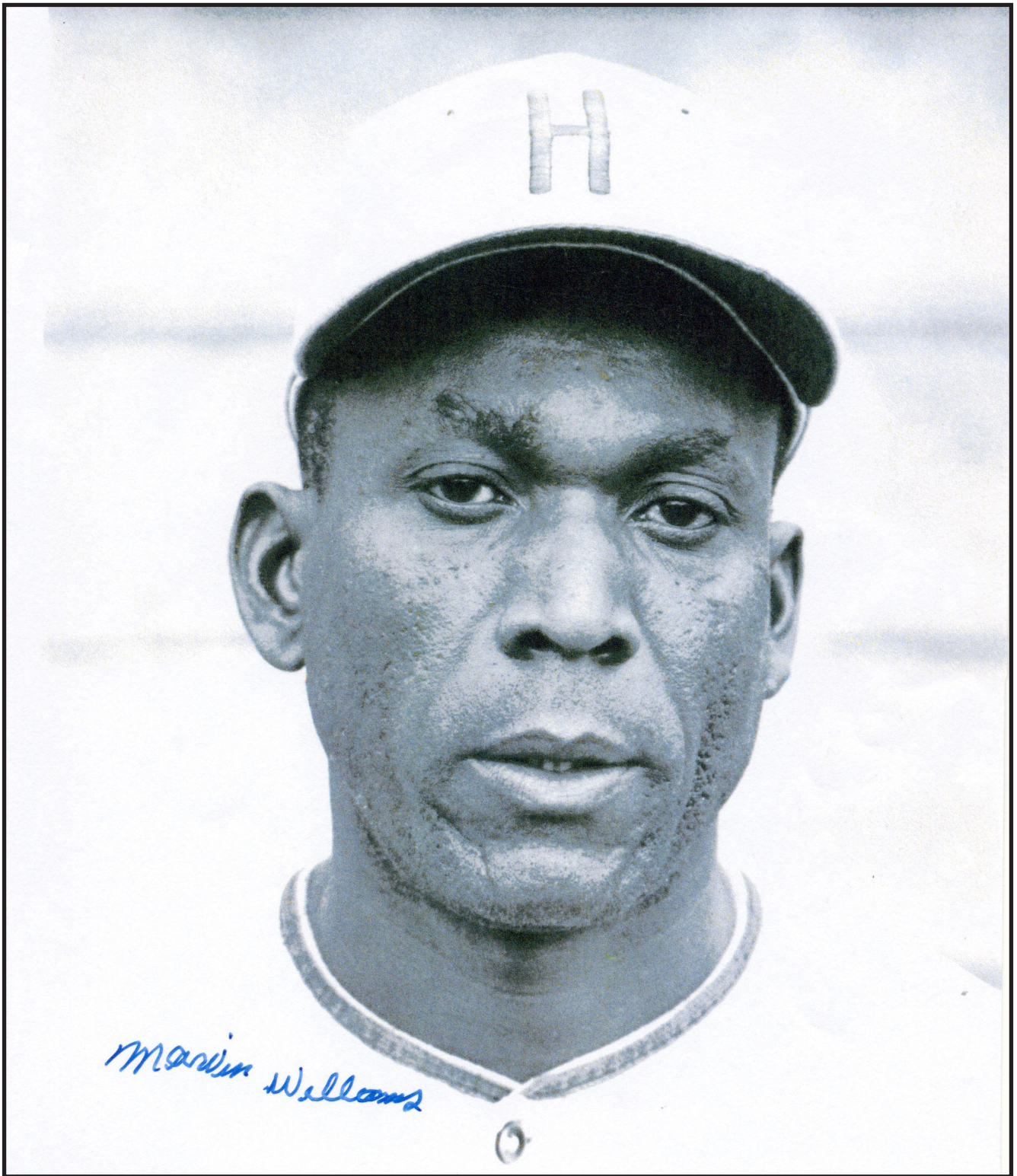
Marvin Williams epitomized the Negro League ball player. He loved playing baseball and the fact that he got paid to do so was a bonus. Marvin played professional baseball at a very high level for a tremendous number of years and unfortunately before our research his baseball accomplishments had all but been forgotten. Through this work the memory and baseball career of Marvin Williams will be preserved for generations to come.

Over the years Marvin was more than a good friend, he was an inspiration to the research that we are conducting on Negro League baseball. Marvin, you are sorely missed; it was a pleasure knowing you and now being able to preserve your career and share it with baseball fans around the world.

(Dr. Layton Revel – Center for Negro League Baseball Research)

Marvin Williams
(1923-2000)

Marvin "Tex" Williams



(Note: This is a very interesting photo of Marvin Williams. When Dr. Revel asked him about the hat he was wearing, Marvin said that it was a hat he was given in Boston when he, Sam Jethroe and Jackie Robinson went there in 1945 for their supposed try-out.)

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1940-1942	Conroe Pine Knots	Town Team
1942	Baytown Oilers	Independent
1942	Morgan Line (Houston)	Industrial League Team
1942	Houston-Conroe-Baytown All Stars	Series vs Negro League All Stars
1943-1945	Philadelphia Stars	Negro National League
1945	Boston Red Sox	Try-out @ Fenway Park
1945	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	Mexican League
1946	Vargas	Venezuelan League
1946	Venezuela	Venezuelan League
1947	Pastora	Zulian Baseball League First Division
1948	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	Mexican League
1949	Jalisco Charros	Mexican League
1949	Philadelphia Stars	Negro American League
1950	Cleveland Buckeyes	Negro American League
1950	Maracaibo	Zulian Baseball League First Division
1950	Sacramento Solons	Pacific Coast League
1951	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	Mexican League
1952	Chihuahua Dorados	Arizona-Texas League
1953	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	Mexican League
1953	Laredo Apaches	Gulf Coast League
1954	Vancouver Capilanos	Western International League
1955	Seattle Rainiers	Pacific Coast League
1955	Columbia Reds	South Atlantic League
1956-1958	Tulsa Oilers	Texas League
1959	Mexico City Tigres	Mexican League
1959	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	Mexican league
1959-1960	Victoria Rosebuds	Texas League
1960	San Antonio Missions	Texas League
1961	Victoria-Ardmore Rosebuds	Texas League
1961	Rio Grande Valley-Victoria Giants	Texas League

Winter Leagues:

1943	North All Stars	Independent
1943	Negro National League All Stars	Independent
1944	Negro National League All Star Team (East)	East-West All Star Game (Comiskey Park)
1944-45	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1945	Estrellas del Caribe	Serie de las Estrellas (Venezuela)
1946-47	Vargas	Venezuelan League
1947-48	Leones	Players Federation (Cuba)
1948	Selecion Extranjeros	All Star Game vs Selecion Mexicanos
1948-49	Los Mochis	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1949-50	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1951	Selecion Extranjeros	All Star Game vs Selecion Mexicanos
1951-52	Caneros de Los Mochis	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1953-54	Charros de Jalisco	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1953-54	Mayos de Navojoa	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1954-55	Mayos de Navojoa	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1955-56	Mayos de Navojoa	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1956	Hermosillo	Championship Series vs Liga Vera Cruzanna
1956	Liga de la Costa All Stars	Series vs Liga Invernal Veracruz
1957-58	Vera Cruz	Mexican Winter League
1959	Extranjeros (Liga Vera Cruz All Star Team)	Game vs Mexicanos All Star Team
1959	Liga Mexicana (All Star Team)	Game vs Liga de Texas
1959-60	Puebla Pericos	Liga Veracruzana (Mexico)
1962-63	Puerto Mexico (Coatzacoalcos)	Liga Veracruzana (Mexico)

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1943	Philadelphia	17	65	13	23	4	3	0	11	2	.354	.508
1944	Philadelphia	53	212	35	73	17	4	3	51	2	.344	.505
1945	Philadelphia	15	61	20	26	1	3	4	16	1	.426	.705
1949	Philadelphia	26	97	19	32	7	3	3	18	6	.330	.557
1950	Cleveland	22	84	14	21	4	1	0	10	1	.250	.321
	Total	133	519	101	175	33	14	10	106	12	.337	.513

Career Statistics – Hitting (Post Season – North Classic Team)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944	North Classic	1	4	1	3	0	1	0	2	0	.750	1.250
1945	North Classic	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	.333	.333
	Total	2	7	2	4	0	1	0	2	0	.571	.857

Career Statistics – Hitting (Mexican League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1945	Mexico City	51	221	53	80	18	6	10	51	7	.362	.633
1948	Mexico City	78	302	69	99	13	11	14	57	8	.328	.583
1949	Jalisco	3	12	4	7	1	0	1	4	0	.583	.917
1951	Mexico City	80	296	58	95	18	5	12	64	8	.321	.537
1953	Mexico City	40	153	37	57	12	3	2	29	11	.373	.529
1959	Mexico City	109	378	76	117	14	2	29	109	1	.310	.587
	Total	361	1362	297	455	76	27	68	314	35	.334	.579

Career Statistics – Hitting (Mexican League All Star Game)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1948	Selecion Extranjeros	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1959	Selecion Extranjeros	1	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	.500	.750
	Total	2	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	.400	.500

Career Statistics – Hitting (Minor Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1950	Sacramento	38	120	18	30	4	1	6	21	3	.250	.450
1952	Chihuahua	117	397	136	159	27	9	45	131	10	.401	.854
1953	Laredo	23	86	14	24	7	3	3	14	0	.279	.535
1954	Vancouver	119	456	114	164	32	9	20	90	15	.360	.601
1955	Seattle	35	117	20	27	6	2	5	22	1	.231	.444
1955	Columbia	97	351	70	115	18	7	16	84	1	.328	.556
1956	Tulsa	144	534	102	172	36	7	26	111	1	.322	.562
1957	Tulsa	134	466	53	118	23	3	8	76	2	.253	.367
1958	Tulsa	144	524	76	154	33	3	19	88	2	.294	.477
1959	Victoria	5	5	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	.400	1.000
1960	Victoria	94	297	52	83	13	2	17	54	0	.279	.508
	San Antonio											
1961	Victoria-Ardmore	116	354	55	98	16	2	10	71	2	.277	.418
	Total	1066	3707	712	1146	215	48	176	764	37	.309	.535

Career Statistics – Hitting (Puerto Rico)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944-45	Ponce	-	90	17	34	-	-	1	13	-	.378	-
1949-50	Ponce	-	183	31	44	8	1	2	24	-	.240	-
	Total	-	273	48	78	8	1	3	37	-	.286	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Venezuela)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1945	Estrellas del Crib	9	52	-	22	5	1	2	10	0	.423	.673
1946	Vargas	30	-	29	-	14	-	-	41	-	.339	-
1946-47	Vargas	37	-	-	-	13	-	5	-	-	.343	-
	Total	76	52	29	22	32	1	7	51	0	.423	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1947-48	Leones	-	42	5	12	1	0	0	4	2	.286	.310

Career Statistics – Hitting (Mexican Pacific Coast League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1948-49	Los Mochis	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	18	-	-	-
1951-52	Los Mochis	60	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-
1953-54	Jalisco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.336	-
	Navojoa	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	.309	-
1954-55	Navojoa	1	4	-	4	1	1	1	-	-	1.000	-
1955-56	Navojoa	42	155	37	56	16	-	8	40	3	.361	-
1956	Hermosillo	1	5	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	.600	-
1956	Liga de la Costa	3	12	1	4	1	-	-	3	-	.333	-
	Total	108	177	39	68	18	1	38	61	3	.384	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Mexican Winter League)

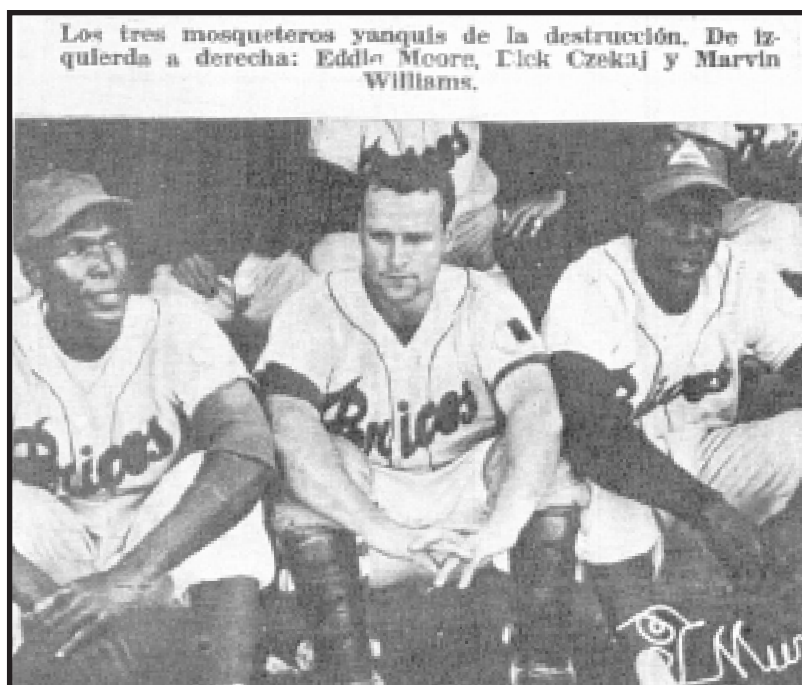
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1957-58	Vera Cruz	66	232	-	77	14	-	11	57	-	.332	-
1959-60	Puebla	24	88	30	37	-	-	11	27	-	.420	-
	Total	90	320	30	114	14	-	22	84	-	.356	-

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro League	133	519	101	175	33	14	10	106	12	.337	.513
North Classic	2	7	2	4	0	1	0	2	0	.571	.857
Mexico	361	1362	297	455	76	27	68	314	35	.334	.579
Mexico All Star Game	2	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	.400	.500
Minor League	1066	3707	712	1146	215	48	176	764	37	.309	.535
Puerto Rico	-	273	48	78	8	1	3	37	-	.286	-
Cuba	-	42	5	12	1	0	0	4	2	.286	.310
Venezuela	76	52	29	22	32	1	7	51	0	.423	-
Mexican PCL	108	177	39	68	18	1	38	61	3	.384	-
Mexican Winter League	90	230	30	114	14	-	22	84	-	.356	-
Total	1838	6374	1263	2076	398	93	324	1423	89	.326	-

Batting and League Leader Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Batting Average	1946-47	Venezuelan League	.420
	1952	Arizona-Texas League	.401
	1954	Western International League	.360
	1959-60	Liga Veracruzana (Mexico)	.420
Slugging Percentage	1952	Arizona-Texas League	.854
	1954	Western International League	.601
	1955-56	Mexican Pacific Coast League	.619
	1959	Mexican League	.587
Total Bases	1952	Arizona-Texas League	339
	1954	Western International League	274
	1955-56	Mexican Pacific Coast League	96
Homeruns	1951-52	Mexican Pacific Coast League	17
	1952	Arizona-Texas League	45
	1959	Mexican League	29
Runs Batted In	1946	Venezuelan League	41
	1952	Arizona-Texas League	131
	1955-56	Mexican Pacific Coast League	40
	1959	Mexican League	109
Runs Scored	1946	Venezuelan League	29
Doubles	1946	Venezuelan League	14
	1946-47	Venezuelan League	13
	1955-56	Mexican Pacific Coast League	16
Triples	1948	Mexican League	11



Assessing Marvin Williams' Baseball Career

- Marvin Williams was an **outstanding hitter**.

During his Negro League career Marvin compiled a career batting average of .337 and a slugging percentage of .513. In games against all levels of competition he registered an impressive career batting average of .326. All of these averages will undoubtedly go up as more box scores are found.

From box score that have been found, Marvin Williams hit at least 324 homeruns and had at least 1423 runs batted in. As more box scores are located these numbers will increase.

Over his career he won four batting titles, three home run titles, four times was the league leader in runs batted in and led his league in slugging percentage at least four times.

Marvin Williams was one of those unique batters who could hit for both power and average.

When former Negro League player, manager, Major League coach and Major League scout Buck O'Neil was asked about Marvin Williams, he was quoted as follows: "He was quite an athlete. He (Marvin) could hit the ball. He had a sweet bat. The sweet bat earned Williams two hits the first time he went up against legendary pitcher Satchel Paige. He got some hits off everybody. "

- One problem in analyzing Marvin Williams' baseball career is the **problem of missing statistics**. Examples of missing data includes but is not limited to the following:
 1. Missing quite a few "league" games he played in the Negro Leagues and virtually all of the "non-league" games he played while playing for a Negro League team.
 2. Games played and stolen bases for both of his seasons in Puerto Rico. Also missing extra base hits for his 1944-45 season with Ponce.
 3. Most all of his statistics for the several seasons he played in Venezuela. These are particularly important because during one season he led the "league" in at least three hitting categories.
 4. Missing most of his batting statistics during the last several years of his career when he primarily played in the lower level leagues in Mexico.
 5. We are also missing teams and statistics from several winter seasons that Marvin Williams played primarily in Latin America.
- Williams had a **long and very prestigious professional career** that lasted from 1943 to 1963. His professional career began in 1943 with the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro National League and ended in 1963 with Coatzacoalcos of the Liga Veracruzana in Mexico.
- Marvin was a **very durable player** during his twenty plus year career. He did have two significant injuries (right arm and left knee) but never let getting hurt or injuries stand in his way of playing everyday.
- He was a very **versatile ball player** in the field. Marvin thought of himself as a second baseman, but he also played a lot of first base, third base and outfield during his 21 year career. Having Marvin Williams on the roster gave the team's manager a lot of flexibility when making up the starting line-up for a game.
- Marvin Williams' baseball **career took him all over the Western Hemisphere**. Besides the United States he played in Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

- He **played on several championship teams** during his professional baseball career..

Year	Team	League
1944-45	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican League
1946	Vargas	Venezuelan League
1946-47	Vargas	Venezuelan League
1947-48	Leones	Players Federation (Cuba)
1954	Vancouver Ciplanos	Western International League
1955	Seattle Rainiers	Pacific Coast League
1955	Columbia Reds	Sally League
1955-56	Hermosillo	Mexican Pacific Coast League
1956	Hermosillo	Championship of Mexican Winter Baseball
1959	Victoria Rosebuds	Texas League
1959-60	Puebla Pericos	Liga Invernal Veracruzana (Mexico)

- Marvin Williams was a **very humble man**. When Dr. Revel located him in the mid-1990's no one in Negro League baseball knew if he was alive or dead. Dr. Revel found Marvin quietly living in his hometown of Conroe, Texas. During the first interview that Dr. Revel had with Marvin his two sons were in attendance. When Dr. Revel asked his sons how much they knew about their dad's playing career, their response was "we knew dad played a little baseball when he was young." Marvin Jr. and Billy were flabbergasted to hear how great of a ball player their father had been.
- Williams was frequently an **all star every where that he played**. Some of the all star teams for which Marvin Williams was selected were as follows:

League	Year (s)
Negro National League	1944
Puerto Rican Winter League	1944-45 and 1949-50
Mexican League	1948, 1951 and 1959
Arizona-Texas league	1952
Sally League	1955
Mexican Pacific Coast League	1955-56
Texas League	1956, 1957 and 1958
Liga Invernal Veracruzana	1959-60

- The only area that Marvin did not excel in was fielding and speed. Marvin was only an **average fielder with average speed** on the base paths. His defensive ability took a real hit in the late 1940's when he injured his throwing arm. His arm injury never fully recovered and this without a doubt also hurt his attraction to Major League scouts.
- A combination of the **slow process of the early integration of "organized" baseball, his arm injury and advancing age** severely hurt his chances of moving up to the Major Leagues.
- After analyzing his career in great detail, only one conclusion can be drawn. Marvin "Tex" Williams was an **outstanding ball player with a distinguished playing career**.

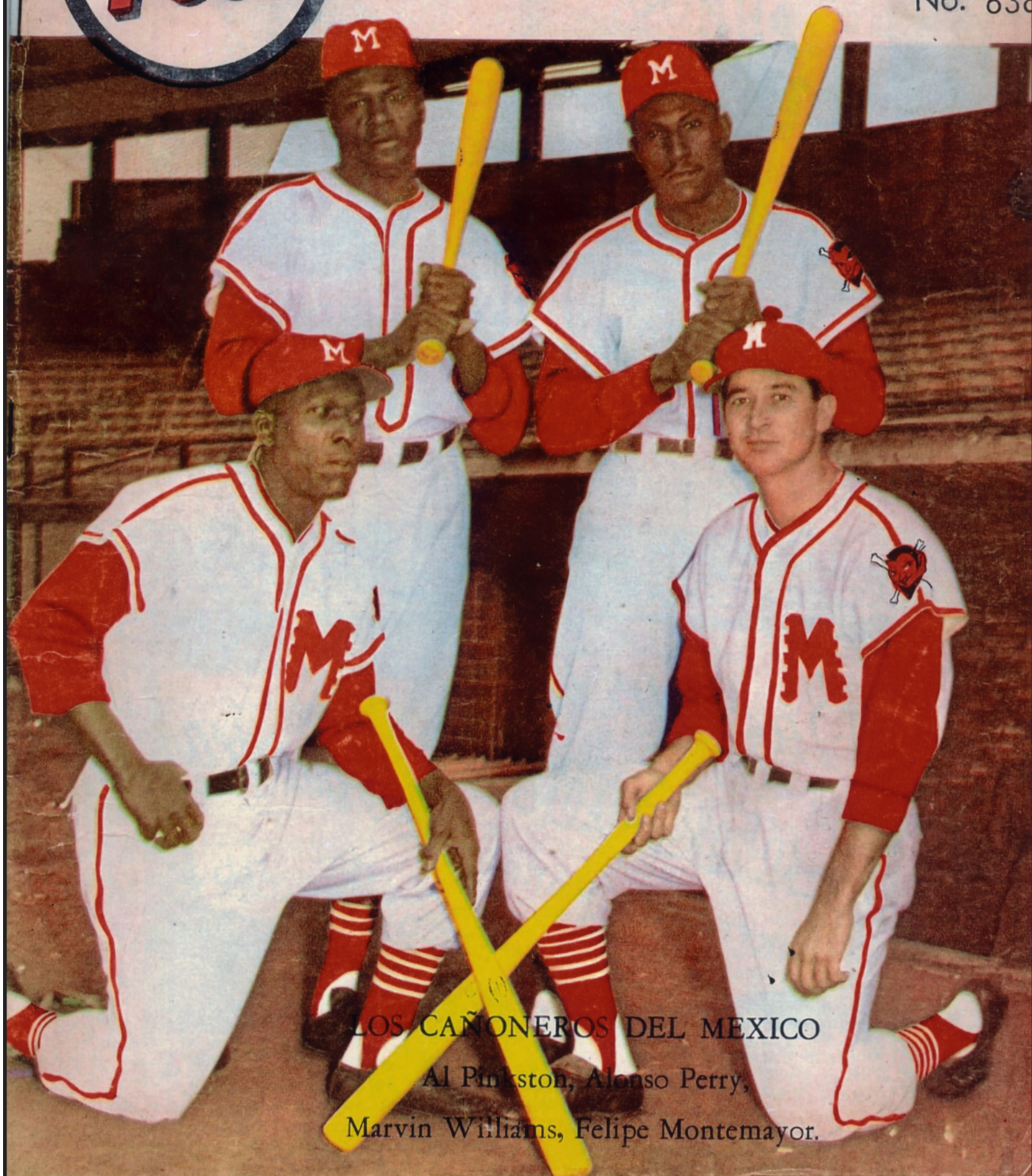
Selected Career Highlights

- Marvin Williams started his baseball career in the Negro National League with the Philadelphia Stars. He played for them for four seasons and put up great hitting numbers every season (1943 - .354, 1944 - .344, 1945 - .426 and 1949 - .330)
- Marvin was selected to play for the East squad in the 1944 East-West All Star game.
- He was selected along with Sam Jethroe and Jackie Robinson to be given a try-out at Fenway Park by the Boston Red Sox in 1945.
- Williams played in the Mexican League for six (6) seasons and never hit below .300. His season batting averages in the Mexican League were as follows: 1945 - .362, 1948 - .328, 1949 - .583, 1951 - .321, 1953 - .373 and 1959 - .310.
- He helped lead Vargas to a Venezuelan League title in 1946 and during the 1946-47 winter league season.
- On June 25, 1952 Marvin Williams became the manager of the Chihuahua Dorados of the Arizona-Texas League. This made him the third African American to manage in “organized” baseball. Sam Bankhead (1951) and Chet Brewer (1952) were the first two.
- During the 1952 season Marvin Williams led the Arizona-Texas League in homeruns (45), runs batted in (131), batting average (.401) and slugging percentage (.854). For all of his accomplishments on the field he was named the league’s “Most Valuable Player.”
- Marvin Williams won the Western International League batting title in 1954 with a .360 batting average and also led the “league” in slugging with a .601 slugging percentage. During the season he also had 32 doubles, 9 triples and 20 homeruns while driving in 90 runs.
- On October 24, 1954 Marvin had one of the best games of his career when he hit for the cycle (single, double, triple and home run). Williams was playing for the Mayos de Navojoa in the Mexican Pacific Coast League.
- In 1955 Marvin led the Columbia Reds in hitting and helped them win the Sally League championship. Williams hit 16 homeruns, drove in 84 runs and batted .328 with a .556 slugging percentage.
- While playing for Navojoa of the 1955-56 Mexican Pacific Coast League Marvin registered a .361 batting average for the season. He was selected to the “league’s” all star team and named the “league’s” Most Valuable Player (MVP) at the end of the season.
- In February of 1956 he helped lead Hermosillo to the “Championship of Winter Baseball” in a two game series with a team from the Liga Vera Cruzana.
- In 1959 Marvin Williams led the Mexican League in homeruns (29) and runs batted in (109).
- During the winter league season of 1959-60, Marvin Williams won the Liga Invernal Veracruzana batting title with a .420 batting average.



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Al Pinkston, Alonso Perry,
Marvin Williams, Felipe Montemayor.