

# **Forgotten Heroes:**

## **Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**



**by**

**Center for Negro League Baseball Research**

**Dr. Layton Revel**

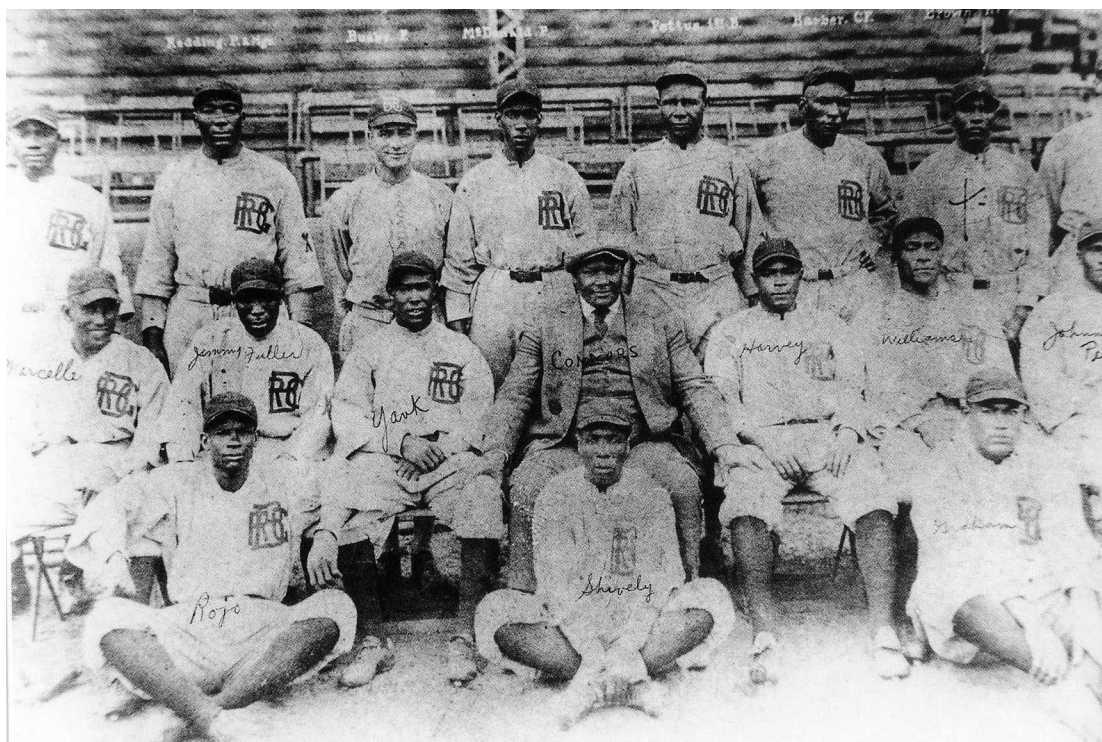
**and**

**Luis Munoz**

## Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were formed in 1916 when the Duval Giants of Jacksonville, Florida moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Bacharach Giants played an independent schedule until they joined the Eastern Colored League in 1923. They played in the Eastern Colored League until it was disbanded in 1928. Atlantic City was the Eastern Colored League champion in 1926 and 1927. The Bacharach Giants played in the American Negro League in 1929, its only year in existence.

Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle played third base for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants from 1920 to 1921 and from 1925 to 1928.



### Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1921)

(Standing left to right – Unknown, **Dick “Cannonball” Redding**, Maurice Busby, McDonald, William “Zack” Pettus, Jess Barbour, Elias “Country” Brown and Unknown)

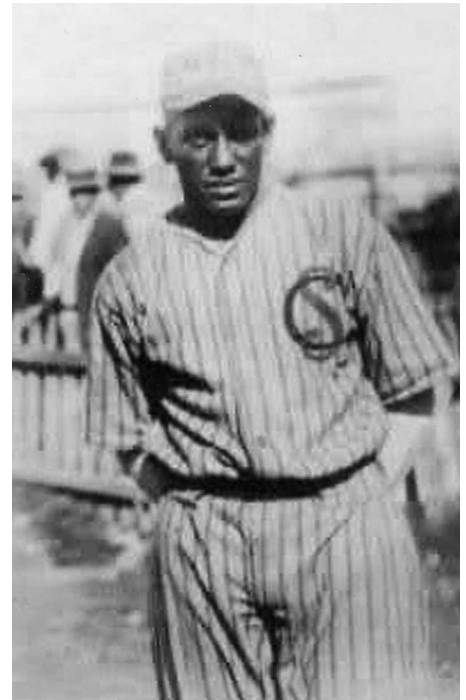
Middle row left to right - **Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**, Jimmy Fuller, James “Yank” Deas, John Connors (owner), Frank Harvey, Andrew “String bean” Williams and Johnny Pugh

Front row left to right – Julio Rojo, George Shively and Dennis Graham)

Oliver Hazzard “The Ghost” Marcelle (also found with the spelling Marcel and Marcell) was born on June 21, 1895 along the banks of Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux, Louisiana to Daniel and Eliza Marcelle. The date of birth presented here corresponds to the birthdate listed on his World War I Draft Registration Card and his 1929 United States Passport Application. It is open to some controversy because several other resources (Baseball Reference, MLB profiles and Negro League researcher James Riley) list June 1, 1895 or June 24, 1897 as his birthday. Oliver was the fifth of six children. He had an older brother Johnny and four sisters (Elnora, Celestine, Ann and Cecilea). Early in his childhood, Marcelle’s mother moved the family sixty-six miles from Thibodaux to New Orleans. Oliver completed the eighth grade at Thomy Lafon Elementary School and attended high school at New Orleans University in New Orleans. The 1910 United States Census shows Oliver Marcelle living with his widowed mother in New Orleans. Eliza is listed as working in a private home doing laundry and Oliver is listed as working as a porter in a store.

Marcelle stood five feet nine inches tall and weighed approximately 160 pounds during his playing career. He batted from the right hand side of the plate and threw right handed. Oliver was Creole and always took pride in his good looks and personal appearance.

Oliver Marcelle is considered the best defensive third baseman in the history of Negro League baseball. He possessed outstanding range, a flawless glove, great hands, strong arm, accurate throwing ability and lightning quick reflexes. He consistently made all of the tough plays look easy. Marcelle was also known for his ability to knock down hard hit balls hit down the third base line, recover the ball and throw out the hitter. His trademark, however, was his nerves of steel that allowed him to play closer to home plate than any other third baseman of his day. According to Bobby Robinson who also played third base in the Negro Leagues from 1925 to 1942, Marcelle played at least 10 feet closer to home plate than any other third baseman of their day. This was extremely important because during the times in which Oliver played, the bunt was still a significant part of a team’s offense. His ability to play so close to home plate took the bunt away from his opponent’s offensive options. “The Ghost” had virtually no weakness defensively and no peer at third base.



Marcelle was also a very good hitter who hit over .300 for his baseball career. Even though he hit with very little power during his career, he always seemed to deliver in the clutch and was a good hit and run man. Oliver’s ability to hit to all fields always made him an offensive threat.

**Santa Clara**  
Cuba  
1923-24

Besides his quickness playing third base, Oliver Marcelle was also known for his speed on the base paths. According to research by John Holway, he even led the East in stolen bases in 1921.

He was a fiercely competitive individual who just loved to win. It has often been said that the only thing that he didn’t mind losing was his temper. Unfortunately for Marcelle, his volatile hair-triggered temper and demeanor always seemed to keep him in trouble. This often spilled over to his performance on the field.

During his career he was known as “The Ghost.” There are at least two stories on how he got his nickname. The first is that it was because he had lightning quick reflexes and his ability to seemingly appear out of nowhere to snare a hard hit line drive then magically appear just like a “ghost” to throw out the batter. The second story came from John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil who had been a teammate of Oliver’s when they both played for the Miami Giants in the early 1930’s. Buck’s story relates more to Oliver’s love of the night life, drinking and “partying.” O’Neil’s

story was that Oliver always seemed to disappear after a ball game and then magically reappear like a “ghost” when the team was ready to go to the next town.

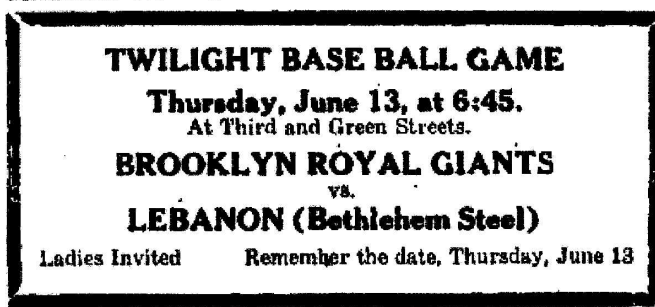
### **Early Baseball Career**

Marcelle grew up in New Orleans (Louisiana) and honed his baseball skills on the local sandlots. The first organized team Marcelle played for was Giovanni’s baseball team that was based in New Orleans. Marcelle joined Giovanni’s in 1913. In 1914 Marcelle moved up to the New Orleans Black Eagles. The Black Eagles were owned by a Mr. Palambo and managed by Charlie Stevens. They barnstormed all over Louisiana and East Texas. Oliver Marcelle played off and on for the Eagles for the next several seasons before going North to further his baseball career. One of his teammates on the Black Eagles was future Negro League great Dave Malarcher who also grew up in New Orleans. Malarcher played with the Black Eagles while he was attending Dillard University (New Orleans) in 1914 and 1915.

According to Marcelle’s World War I Draft Registration Card he also played professional baseball for a team in the Texas Colored League in 1917. The team was reportedly owned by Enox Whitaker.

### **Negro League Career**

Oliver Marcelle began his Negro League career in 1918 when he was signed by the Brooklyn Royal Giants as the team’s starting third baseman. The team was owned by Nat Strong who was one of the top booking agents in the East. Strong literally controlled all bookings related to black baseball teams in New York City. Through Strong’s contacts the Royal Giants played an extensive independent schedule up and down the Eastern seaboard. Brooklyn was one of the top teams in the East for several years. Other top teams in the East during the 1918 season were the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Cuban Stars, Hilldale, New York Lincoln Giants, Pennsylvania Red Caps of New York and Philadelphia Giants. Frank Earle was the manager of the Brooklyn Royal Giants when Oliver signed with them. Their hitting attack was John Henry “Pop” Lloyd and Louis Santop. From the 19 Brooklyn box scores that include Marcelle in the line-up, he hit .267 (20 for 75) in his inaugural season playing for a top level team. Dick “Cannonball” Redding, John Donaldson and Tom Williams anchored the Royal Giants’ pitching staff.



Brooklyn Royal Giants vs Bethlehem Steel  
Lebanon Daily News  
Lebanon, PA  
06-13-18

In 1918 the United States was in the midst of World War I. The War hit black baseball very hard when they lost many of their stars to the war effort. Some of the key players lost to the military were Oscar Charleston (Chicago), Dizzy Dismukes (Indianapolis), Jude Gans (Chicago), Dave Malarcher (Indianapolis), Spottswood Poles (New York), Louis Santop (Brooklyn), Dick “Cannonball” Redding (Brooklyn) and Frank Wickware (Chicago).

Going into the 1919 baseball season, Nat Strong still controlled black baseball in the East. Unfortunately the Brooklyn Royal Giants were not as strong on the field as they had been in the past. According to research by John Holway, the leading hitters for Brooklyn in 1919 were Louis

Santop (.464), Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle (.462), Robert Sloan (.417) Eddie Douglas (.391) and W. Johnson (.375). Marcelle’s solid hitting coupled with his brilliant play defensively made him the top third baseman in the East in only his second year playing in the “big time.”

The Royal Giants had a pitching staff that included Jess “Mountain” Hubbard and Mervyn “Red” Ryan. Unfortunately none of Brooklyn’s pitchers delivered during the season. Newspaper accounts reveal that the Brooklyn Royal Giants only had a mediocre season. The New York Lincoln Giants led by Smoky Joe Williams were considered the best team in the East during the 1919 baseball season.

The year 1920 is important in Negro League baseball because it is the year that Rube Foster founded the Negro National League. Foster’s league, however, was made up of teams that played predominately in the West. There was no formal league in the East during the 1920 baseball season.

Before the start of the 1920 season, Oliver Marcelle signed with the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. The team was owned by two local politicians (Tom Jackson and Henry Tucker) who were determined to make the Bacharach Giants the best team in the East. Dick “Cannonball” Redding was the manager of the team and also the ace of the pitching staff. Redding had played with Marcelle when they were both with the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Atlantic City already had Dick Lundy at shortstop and knew that if they signed Oliver they would have the best left side of an infield in black baseball.



**Oliver Marcelle**  
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

One of the highlights of the 1920 season for Atlantic City occurred in mid-May when the Bacharach Giants became the first African-American baseball team to play in Ebbets Field (home field of the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League). According to a newspaper article that appeared in the New York Age on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Bacharach Giants played the Treat ‘em’ Rough baseball team (famous white semipro team from New York City).

A second historic event occurred for the Bacharach Giants on July 11<sup>th</sup> when they met the New York Lincoln Giants at Ebbets Field. This marked the first time two black teams had played each other in a Major League stadium in the East. Dick Redding pitched the Bacharach Giants to a 5-0 victory over Smoky Joe Williams and the Lincoln Giants. The two pitchers faced off again in August. Redding prevailed again, this time by the score of 6-0.

According to Negro League researcher John Holway, the leading hitters for the Bacharach Giants during the 1920 season were Elias “Country” Brown (.393), Dick Lundy (.344) and Oliver Marcelle (.323). Redding reportedly had one of the best seasons of his career. According to newspaper reports, Redding had a 19 game winning streak during the season. Mervyn “Red” Ryan, Harold Treadwell and Andrew “String bean” Williams rounded out the Bacharach Giants pitching rotation.

Before the end of the 1920 season the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants claimed that they were the “Champions of the East.” The Hilldale club disputed Atlantic City’s claim and held their own “Championship Series” with the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Hilldale won their series 2-0-2.

After the regular season the Bacharach Giants played the Babe Ruth All Stars in an exhibition game and beat them by a score of 9-4. Oliver went 1 for 4 against the pitching of Carl Mays and Babe Ruth.

Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle returned to Atlantic City as their starting third baseman for the 1921 Bacharach Giants independent season. During the 1921 season, Marcelle really came into his own as a hitter and was one of the top hitters in the East. His batting statistics for the 1921 season in games against top level opponents are as follows:

| Year | Team          | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|---------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1921 | Atlantic City | 61    | 226 | 48   | 80   | 8  | 5  | 1  | 35  | 8  | .354 | .447 |

Dennis Graham (.351), Dick Lundy (.325), George Shively (.299), Jess Barbour (.289) and Elias "Country" Brown (.282) were Atlantic City's other top hitters. According to research by John Holway, "The Ghost" led the East in stolen bases with nine (9). Oliver Marcelle also continued his defensive dominance at third base.

Dick "Cannonball" Redding was the team's manager and Atlantic City's best pitcher. Redding posted a won-loss record of 15-11 (.577) for the season. Phil Cockrell (9-7), Mervyn "Red" Ryan (7-4), Harold Treadwell (5-2), Andrew "String bean" Williams and Jesse "Nip" Winters rounded out Atlantic City's starting pitching rotation.

The highlight of the 1921 season for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants was a no-hitter Phil Cockrell pitched against Detroit on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

oppose Jeffries on the mound. The game will start at 3 o'clock. Score:

| A. B. C.       | AB | H | O | A | Giants        | AB | H | O | A |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|---------------|----|---|---|---|
| Clark, S.      | 2  | 1 | 0 | 1 | Barber, C.    | 4  | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Jefferson, H.  | 4  | 3 | 0 | 0 | Shively, H.   | 5  | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Williams, S.   | 2  | 1 | 3 | 1 | Marcelle, J.  | 4  | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| R. Taylor, J.  | 3  | 2 | 1 | 0 | Pettus, L.    | 4  | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Holoway, C.    | 3  | 0 | 3 | 1 | Brown, R.     | 5  | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Kanyon, H.     | 5  | 1 | 2 | 0 | Handy, S.     | 4  | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Day, J.        | 3  | 0 | 3 | 0 | Jackson, S.   | 4  | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Washington, C. | 4  | 2 | 4 | 1 | Kolo, C.      | 4  | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Latimer, P.    | 2  | 0 | 8 | 5 | Williams, P.  | 2  | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Jeffries, P.   | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 | McDonnell, P. | 2  | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|                |    |   |   |   | Pugh, P.      | 1  | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|                |    |   |   |   | Redding, P.   | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Totals... 29 10 27 15 Totals... 39 14 24 20  
 \*Batted for McDonnell in eighth.  
 Bacharach Giants... 0 0 0 0 4 0 3 0-7  
 A. B. C. .... 1 0 3 0 3 1 0 1-8  
 Errors—S. Williams, Jackson, Handy, Washington, Day, Kanyon, Holoway.  
 Two-base hits—Clark, C. Williams.  
 Three-base hit—Jackson. \*Stolen bases—Barber, Shively, Double plays—Williams to Day to R. Taylor; Day to R. Taylor; Pettus to Jackson to Pettus. Bases on balls—Off Jeffries, 1; off S. Williams, 4; off McDonnell, 2. Struck out—By Latimer, 2. Winning pitcher—Jeffries. Losing pitcher—Redding.

Chicago American Giants

vs

Indianapolis ABC's

Marcelle goes 3 for 4

Indianapolis Star

05-22-21

After the 1921 regular season the Bacharach Giants played a four game series against Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics of the Major Leagues. The Bacharach Giants won only one game and lost three games. Scrip Lee pitched the lone victory, while Dick Redding took the loss in two others. Marcelle had an excellent series scoring 6 runs and collecting 8 hits in 18 at bats for a .440 batting average.



Trenton Evening News

Trenton, NJ

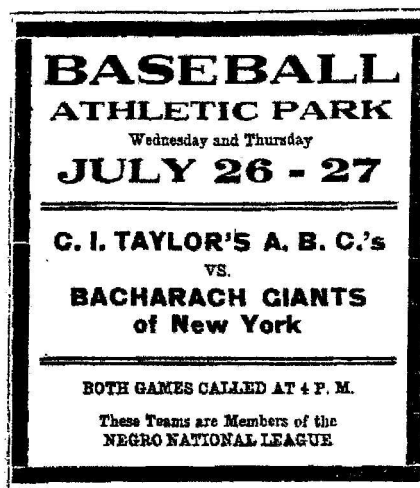
10-6-21

## Bacharach Giants Split into Two Factions

Before the start of the 1922 baseball season, the Bacharach Giants split into two factions. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd and most of the top players including Oliver Marcelle formed a "new" team that became the Bacharach Giants of New York. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd became the manager of the Bacharach Giants of New York and Dick Lundy remained with the team that stayed in Atlantic City as their player-manager.

The top teams in the East during the 1922 season were Bacharach Giants of New York, Baltimore Black Sox, Hilldale, Lincoln Giants and Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. There was no formal league in the East in 1922, so all the teams scheduled their games on an independent basis. The Bacharach Giants of New York were led by the hitting of Elias "Country" Brown (.372), George Shively (.330), John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.310), Julio Rojo (.300) and Oliver Marcelle (.286). Oliver Marcelle's complete statistics for the season were:

| Year | Team     | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|----------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1922 | New York | 57    | 227 | 40   | 65   | 11 | 2  | 1  | 29  | 4  | .286 | .366 |



**Bacharach Giants vs C.I. Taylor's A.B.C.'s**  
Kokomo Tribune  
 Kokomo, IN  
 07-24-22

The pitching staff for the Bacharach Giants of New York included: Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Harold Treadwell, Roy "Big Boy" Roberts, Alonzo "Hooks" Mitchell and Andrew "String bean" Williams.

After the regular season, the Bacharach Giants of New York played the Chicago American Giants in a "Colored Championship Series." The Chicago American Giants had won the Negro National League title for the third straight year. Cristobal Torriente (.393) and John Beckwith (.303) were the leading hitters for the American Giants. Dave Brown (16-7), Juan Padrone (14-11), Dick Whitworth (11-10) and Huck Rile (10-4) were the team's top pitchers. The Bacharach Giants traveled to Chicago in mid September to play the Chicago American Giants.

The starting lineups for both teams for the "Colored Championship Series" were as follows:

| Chicago American Giants |    | Bacharach Giants<br>of New York |    |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|
| Leroy Grant             | 1B | Bob Hudspeth                    | 1B |
| Bingo De Moss           | 2B | Milton Lewis                    | 2B |
| Bobby Williams          | SS | John Henry "Pop" Lloyd          | SS |
| Dave Malarcher          | 3B | Oliver Marcelle                 | 3B |
| Jim Brown               | C  | Julio Rojo                      | C  |
| Jelly Gardner           | OF | Elias "Country" Brown           | OF |
| Cristobal Torriente     | OF | George Shively                  | OF |
| Jimmie Lyons            | OF | Ramiro Ramirez                  | OF |
| Dave Brown              | P  | Dick Redding                    | P  |
| Juan Padrone            | P  | Jesse "Nip" Winters             | P  |
| Dick Whitworth          | P  | Harold Treadwell                | P  |
| Huck Rile               | P  | Speedboy Roberts                | P  |

New York got off to a fast start by taking the first two games of the series. Chicago came back behind the pitching of Dave Brown and won game three by a score of 3-2. Game four was classic Rube Foster baseball. With the American Giants down by a score of 3-2 in the seventh inning, Leroy Grant and Cristobal Torriente walked. The next batter up was pinch hitter Johnny Reese who beat out an infield hit to load the bases. Bingo De Moss then bunted the ball down the first base line and as Bacharach Giants pitcher was fielding the ball, two runs scored. Jimmy Lyons followed with another bunt that scored a run. In the eighth inning with runners on second and third, Bingo De Moss laid down a perfect bunt that allowed both runners to score. The American Giants scored five runs on three bunts to win the game by a score of 7-3 and tied the series. Game five of the series was without a doubt the most exciting game to have ever been played in “Colored Championship” or Negro League World Series history. Each team had back to back victories. New York had won games one and two, while Chicago won games three and four. In the fifth and deciding game, Huck Rile took the mound for Chicago and Harold Treadwell was the starting pitcher for New York. Rile pitched six strong scoreless innings before giving way to Dave Brown in the seventh. Harold Treadwell held the American Giants scoreless through the first six innings he pitched. With the game knotted at a 0-0 scoreless tie, the game was now in the hands of Brown and Treadwell. They hooked up for a pitching duel that went into the bottom of the 20<sup>th</sup> inning with neither team having scored a run. Treadwell had still been perfect on the mound and Dave Brown had pitched 14 innings of shutout innings in relief. In the bottom of the 20<sup>th</sup> inning, Torriente walked and was sacrificed to second by Bobby Williams. Dave Malarcher drove in Torriente with the only run of the day. After a 20 inning pitching battle, the Chicago American Giants had a 1-0 victory and another “Colored Championship.” A sad side note to the game is that New York pitcher Harold Treadwell had pitched 19 innings of shutout ball before giving up the lone run of the game in the 20<sup>th</sup> inning. A summary of the Series is as follows:

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

Like the year before, Rube Foster’s American Giants won the “Championship Series” with excellent pitching, timely hitting and team speed.

### **Marcelle Moves to Lincoln Giants for Eastern Colored League’s Inaugural Season**

Under the leadership of Ed Bolden (owner of Hilldale), the Eastern Colored League was formed before the start of the 1923 baseball season in the East. The teams that played in the inaugural season of the Eastern Colored League and their final standings are as follows:

#### **Eastern Colored League (1923)**

| Team                           | Record | Pct  | Rank            |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|-----------------|
| Hilldale                       | 32-17  | .653 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Cuban Stars (East)             | 23-17  | .575 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Brooklyn Royal Giants          | 18-18  | .500 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | 19-23  | .452 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| New York Lincoln Giants        | 16-22  | .421 | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Baltimore Black Sox            | 19-30  | .388 | 6 <sup>th</sup> |

In preparation for their Eastern Colored League season, Oliver Marcelle was signed by the New York Lincoln Giants as their starting third baseman. The New York Lincoln Giants were owned by Jim Keenan and played their home games at the Catholic Protectory Oval in the Bronx. The team was managed by Smokey Joe Williams. The Lincoln Giants had a very strong hitting line-up

that included: George Scales (.408), Robert Hudspeth (.388), Orville Singer (.386) Benny Wilson (.296), Oliver Marcelle (.293) and Eddie Holtz (.288).

New York also had a good pitching staff "on paper" that included Dave Brown (5-5), Bill Holland (1-4), Sam Streeter (5-3) and Smokey Joe Williams (3-5). Unfortunately, none of the pitchers responded during the season and the New York Lincoln Giants finished the regular Eastern Colored League season in next to last place in the league with a record of 16-22 (.421).

After their dismal showing in 1923, Jim Keenan was determined for the New York Lincoln Giants to improve their performance during the 1924 Eastern Colored League season. The first thing Keenan did was to replace Smokey Joe Williams as manager with Jude Gans. The team also voted Oliver Marcelle as captain of the Lincoln Giants before the start of the season.

The New York Lincoln Giants responded to Gans as their manager. All of the starting infielders hit over .300 for the 1924 season. They were led by George Scales (2B - .341), Gerard Williams (SS - .320), Robert Hudspeth (1B - .313), Oliver Marcelle (3B - .301) and Rich Gee (C - .301). Dave Brown had one of the best seasons in his career on the mound, going 22-11 (.667) in league games and games against top level teams. John "Red" Taylor (15-8) and Bill Holland (11-8) also put in stellar performances.

The New York Lincoln Giants improved significantly over the previous year and finished the season in third place in the final Eastern Colored League standings with a 32-25 (.561) record. Hilldale (47-22) won the championship and the Baltimore Black Sox (32-19) were in second place. Researcher John Holway has the New York Lincoln Giants with a record of 55-44 (.556) when "league" games and games against teams of top level competition are added together.

## Oliver Marcel And Roberts Figure In Big Baseball Trade

New York.—Oliver Marcel, former captain and third-baseman for the Lincoln Giants, and Roy Roberts, pitching ace with the Bacharach Giants, were the principal figures in the largest baseball trade that has taken place in the East in years.

James J. Keenan, owner of the Lincolns transacted the deal with owners of the Bacharach Giants, their agreement calling for the exchange of Roberts, John Harper and Savage, the last a former Black Sox player, all pitchers, for Marcel. Roberts has already started work with the New York team, winning a game against the Philadelphia Hebrews at the Protective Oval on Sunday, May 10.

### Walks and Wins

He has the reputation of walking more men and yet winning more games than any pitcher in the country. On one occasion he walked 18 men, pitching against Rube Foster's team but won a 1 to 0 victory.

Since the loss of Francis, the Bacharach Giant's weak spot has been third base while the Lincoln's

weakness for the past two years has been their pitching staff, hence the trade.

### Fiery Disposition

Although Marcel is generally recognized as a great third baseman, he has been a storm center on the New York team for the past year.

Possessed of an unusually quick temper, he becomes unpopular with local fans because of his readiness to argue and even fight with the umpires. Nevertheless, he will be missed by his former teammates and many fans.

To further strengthen the Lincolns, Jim Keenan has also signed "Stringbean" Williams and Johnson, two veterans of the game, and has shifted his outfield, putting Singer in left field, Thomas in center and Tom Fial in right. George Scales is now playing third and Dean, whom he secured from Chapline Johnson's Stars, is playing shortstop.

This new combination will be tried out on the Cuban Stars in their first series with the Lincoln, Sunday, May 17th.

Even though Marcelle had hit over .300 for the 1924 season and was recognized as the greatest third baseman in the Negro Leagues, Marcelle's fiery disposition constantly kept him in trouble with the Lincoln Giant's team management and New York fans.

On March 14, 1925 Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle was traded by the New York Lincoln Giants to the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants for three pitchers: Roy Roberts, John Harper and Savage (first name unknown). According to newspaper reporting, it was the biggest trade that had taken place in the East in years.

When John Harper refused to report to his new team, Marcelle was returned to the Lincoln Giants.

## Newspaper Coverage of "The Murder"

The following newspaper articles covered the story of Dave Brown killing a man in New York City. Unfortunately, for Oliver Marcelle and Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware, they were both at the scene of the crime.

# EXTRA

## KILL MAN AND ESCAPE IN TAXI

Benjamin Adair, 39, 51 West 135th street, known as "See-See," was shot to death Tuesday at 3:25 A.M. on the sidewalk in front of 69 West 135th street by four men, all of whom escaped in a taxi, numbered 234892.

Patroman William Schmitgen, who was on duty in the vicinity, rushed to the scene. He summoned Dr. Rosenberg from Harlem Hospital, but when the latter arrived Adair was already dead from the shot which took effect in his abdomen.

Adair and the four men were quarrelling on the sidewalk, when one of them drew an automatic and fired one shot at him. As he crumpled to the sidewalk the four jumped into a passing cab and drove away. It is still not known what all four are unknown to the police.

Witnesses of the affair are John Glover, 313 West 144th street; John Moore, 69 West 135th street, and Robt. Jones, 55 West 135th street.

New Amsterdam News

04-29-25

Baseball fandom throughout the United States were shocked and extremely sorry at the story out of New York which told of the death of a man named Adair, who had been fatally shot by three baseball players. It is hard to imagine how men of Dave Brown, Marcell and Wickware's experience and common sense could be mixed up in an affair of this kind. This fatal ending of the well known "all night party" should serve as another warning to ball players that baseball is a business and each player should try to keep the sport on the pinnacle it now occupies by gentlemanly conduct on and off the field.

Pittsburgh Courier

05-09-25

## Police Unable To Find Ballplayers

Atlantic City, N. J.—Police of Atlantic City have been unable to locate the whereabouts of Oliver Marcel, captain of the Lincoln Giants; Dave Brown, pitcher, and Wickware, pitcher, who are said to be connected with the killing of Benjamin Adair in front of 69 W. 135th street, week before last.

According to witnesses the three ball players and Adair were passing in front of the 135th street address when a man ran out of the building and shouted, "I've got you," and fired point blank at Adair, who dropped mortally wounded.

Detectives assigned to the case have been unable so far to locate the missing ball players. The dead man was 29 years old and lived at 61 W. 135th street.

Afro American

05-16-25

### **Marcelle – Wrong Place Wrong Time**

Marcelle was a heavy drinker his entire adult life and enjoyed a night out on the town every chance he got. After his team the New York Lincoln Giants beat the Bacharach Giants in New York City on May 1<sup>st</sup> (1935) by a score of 6-1, Oliver Marcelle and several of his teammates hit the town to celebrate. As the evening wore on Marcelle, Dave Brown and Frank Wickware ended up in a speakeasy in Harlem. According to police reports they became involved in a disagreement with another patron by the name of Benjamin Adair. At 3:25 am on Tuesday (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) morning in front of a residence at 61 West 135<sup>th</sup> Street, the confrontation ended with Adair being shot in the abdomen by Dave Brown. Adair was transported to the hospital and was dead on arrival. The three ball players escaped from the scene of the crime in a taxi cab. Dave Brown left town, never to be seen again. He was placed on the FBI's "Most Wanted List." Brown was never arrested and his whereabouts were always in question. Marcelle and Wickware were arrested by the police the next day at the ball park. After being questioned, neither was charged and both players were released.

### **Marcelle Rejoins the Bacharach Giants**

Atlantic City did not give up on obtaining Marcelle's services. The original trade was reworked and Oliver became a Bacharach Giant in May of 1925. The Bacharach Giants were managed by John Henry "Pop Lloyd" and played in the 1925 season in the Eastern Colored League (ECL). Atlantic City got solid hitting from Nap "Chance" Cummings (.343), Pop Lloyd (.333), Chaney White (.321), Oliver Marcelle (.312), Ernie Gatewood (.312), Charlie Mason (.308) and Dick Lundy (.285). Unfortunately other than Rats Henderson (18-16), all the other Bacharach Giants pitchers struggled the entire season. One of the highlights of the season for Atlantic City occurred on May 26<sup>th</sup> when Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle, Dick Lundy and John Henry "Pop" Lloyd pulled off a triple steal against the Wilmington Potomacs at Dobson Park in Philadelphia. The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants finished the Eastern Colored League season with a 26-26 (.500) record leaving them in fourth place in the final league standings. Hilldale (45-13) won their third straight Eastern Colored League championship.

The highlight of the 1925 season for Marcelle was an exhibition doubleheader when the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played against the Brooklyn Bushwicks on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Oliver collected 6 hits in 10 plate appearances and drove in 6 runs.

### **Bacharach Giants Win Eastern Colored League Crown**

Tired of losing, the owner of the Bacharach Giants decided that it was time to change managers. John Henry "Pop" Lloyd was replaced by Dick Lundy before the start of the 1926 season. The team responded to Lundy as manager. They got good hitting from Luther "Red" Farrell (.348), Dick Lundy (.327) and Chaney White (.281). Oliver Marcelle had an off season at the plate. He hit only .251 (52 for 207) in 59 games during the Eastern Colored League season. Claude "Red" Grier who had only won five games the year before became the ace of the pitching staff with a 25-12 (.676) won-loss record. Arthur "Rats" Henderson also had an excellent season on the mound with a record of 15-8 (.653). Under Lundy the Bacharach Giants played great "team" baseball. The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants went from fourth place in the league the year before to winning the Eastern Colored League (ECL) championship. Atlantic City posted a won-loss record of 34-20 (.630). Negro League researchers disagree with the Bacharach Giants record for 1926. Larry Lester and Dick Clark have them with a 34-20 record, while John Holway's research has them with a 63-15 (.808) record. Holway does include both "league" and "non-league" games in his totals. Both researchers do agree that the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were the Eastern Colored League champions in 1926.

The final standings for the 1926 Eastern Colored League (ECL) season were as follows:

### Eastern Colored League (1926)

| Team                           | Record | Pct  | Rank            |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|-----------------|
| Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | 34-20  | .630 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Harrisburg Giants              | 25-17  | .595 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Hilldale                       | 34-24  | .586 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Cuban Stars (East)             | 28-21  | .571 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| New York Lincoln Giants        | 19-22  | .463 | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Baltimore Black Sox            | 18-29  | .383 | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Brooklyn Royal Giants          | 7-20   | .259 | 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Newark Stars                   | 1-10   | .090 | 8 <sup>th</sup> |

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants also played in the Interstate League during the 1926 season. Other teams that played in the Interstate League were the Harrisburg Giants, Hilldale, Allentown Dukes, Camden and Chester.

Bacharach ought to win with ease.

The score

| CHICAGO    | R | H | E | BACH. | R | H | E |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| 1st Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| CHICAGO    | R | H | E | BACH. | R | H | E |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|
| 1st Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9th Inning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals     | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Two-base hits—Grier, Cummings, Sacchi.  
 3rd Inning—Marshall. Home on balls—Grier 6, Mc-  
 Donald 2. Strike outs—Grier 2, McDonald 1.  
 1 Wild pitch—Grier 2. Batters hit by—  
 McDonald 2. Time of game: 2 hrs., 35 min.

Grier No-Hits Chicago  
 and  
 Marcelle goes 2 for 4

Afro American  
 10-09-26

After the 1926 regular season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants met the Chicago American Giants of the Negro National League in the Negro League World Series. The eleven game series was played from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup>. Game one of the series was played on October 1<sup>st</sup> as a crowd of 3,159 fans watched the two teams battle to a 3-3 tie. Atlantic City got excellent hitting during the series from Alonzo “Hooks” Mitchell (.455), Claude “Red” Grier (.400), Ambrose Reid (.400), Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle (.333), Dick Lundy (.325) and Chance Cummings (.310). The highlight of the Negro League World Series for the Bacharach Giants came on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in game three when Red Grier pitched a 10-0 no-hitter against the American Giants. According to the Chicago Defender, Grier owed a huge debt of gratitude to the brilliant defensive play of his three infielders (Oliver Marcelle, Dick Lundy and Romando Garcia). A mere crowd of 2,857 fans attended the historic game. Unfortunately, however, when it counted Atlantic City’s pitching let them down. After the eighth game Lundy’s team was leading four games to two over Chicago (two games had ended in a tie). The Chicago American Giants came back and won the last three games by the scores of 6-3, 13-0 and 1-0. In the final game of the series, Atlantic City got ten hits but could not produce even one run for Hubert Lockhart. Chicago, behind the shut out pitching of Willie Foster, won the game and was crowned Negro League World Series Champion. A summary of the 1926 Negro League World Series between Atlantic City and Chicago is as follows:

| Game | Location      | Date                 | Winning Team  | Score | Winning Pitcher | Loosing Pitcher  |
|------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1    | Atlantic City | Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Tie Game      | 3-3   | -               | -                |
| 2    | Atlantic City | Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Chicago       | 7-6   | George Harney   | Red Grier        |
| 3    | Baltimore     | Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Atlantic City | 10-0  | Red Grier       | Webster McDonald |
| 4    | Philadelphia  | Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Tie Game      | 4-4   | -               | -                |
| 5    | Philadelphia  | Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Atlantic City | 7-5   | Hooks Mitchell  | Rube Currie      |
| 6    | Atlantic City | Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Atlantic City | 6-4   | Red Grier       | Willie Powell    |
| 7    | Chicago       | Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Chicago       | 5-4   | Bill Foster     | Hubert Lockhart  |
| 8    | Chicago       | Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> | Atlantic City | 3-0   | Rats Henderson  | George Harney    |
| 9    | Chicago       | Oct 11 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago       | 6-3   | Rube Currie     | Red Grier        |
| 10   | Chicago       | Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago       | 13-0  | Willie Powell   | Rats Henderson   |
| 11   | Chicago       | Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago       | 1-0   | Bill Foster     | Hubert Lockhart  |

## Bacharach Giants Capture Second Straight ECL Crown

Going into the 1927 baseball season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were facing bankruptcy proceedings in Federal District Court. According to a petition filed by Hammond Daniels and John Dykes of Atlantic City on April 14<sup>th</sup>, the team was reportedly \$ 30,000 in debt. In spite of their financial concerns, Dick Lundy and the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were determined to defend their Eastern Colored League title. Lundy's team had another excellent season on the playing field. They finished the year with an overall record of 54-35 (.607) to capture their second straight Eastern Colored League championship.

During the season the team was paced by the hitting of Edward "Yump" Jones (.367), Milton Lewis (.354), Dick Lundy (.312), Oliver Marcelle (.304), Luther "Red" Farrell (.301) and Jesse "Mountain" Hubbard (.299). Oliver's complete hitting statistics for the season were:

| Year | Team          | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|---------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1927 | Atlantic City | 79    | 289 | 37   | 88   | 10 | 3  | 1  | 32  | 8  | .304 | .370 |

Atlantic City also got outstanding pitching from Luther "Red" Farrell (20-11), Arthur "Rats" Henderson (15-6), Jesse Hubbard (13-5) and Roy Roberts (10-8). The only disappointments for the Lundy squad was that Red Grier dropped from a record of 25-12 in 1926 to a 1-2 record for the 1927 season and Rats Henderson got hurt in August and missed the rest of the season including the Negro League World Series.

**AMERICAN GIANTS  
WIN NEGRO TITLE**  
Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 14.—The American Giants of Chicago won the deciding game of the colored world series here Thursday, defeating the Bacharach Giants 11 to 4. Lockhart and Farrell were hit hard.  
The game was called in the ninth after one was out because of darkness.  
Jim Brown, Russ and Davis hit home runs with men on. Chicago won five games, lost three and one was tied. Score: R H E.  
Chicago 321 100 64—11 14 1  
Bacharach 040 030 00—4 8 2  
Powell, Foster, Curry and Bray, L. Brown, Lockhart, Farrell and Jones

### American Giants Win World Series

#### Decatur Review

Decatur, IL

10-14-27

After the regular 1927 season had concluded, Atlantic City met the Chicago American Giants, champions of the Negro National League, in a nine game Negro League World Series that started on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chicago dominated the first four games. They beat the Bacharach Giants convincingly by scores of 6-2, 11-1, 7-0 and 9-1. Dick Lundy, manager of Atlantic City, gave the ball to Luther "Red" Farrell for game five of the series. Farrell responded by pitching a no-hitter and winning the game by a score of 3-2 (Atlantic City made four errors and gave up five walks). In the victory, Edward "Yump" Jones became the only catcher in the history of professional baseball to catch two no-hitters in World Series play. Jones also collected 10 hits in 26 at bats to lead the Atlantic City hitting attack with a .385 batting average. Marcelle only had a mediocre series going 8 for 34 for a .235 batting average. During the series Chicago scored more than three times as many runs (62 runs to 17 runs) as Atlantic City. The Chicago American Giants prevailed in the series winning five games to Atlantic City's three victories (one game ended in a tie) and were crowned Negro League World Series champions for the second year in a row. A summary of the 1927 Negro League World Series is as follows:

| Game | Location      | Date                 | Winning Team  | Score | Winning Pitcher   | Losing Pitcher  |
|------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1    | Chicago       | Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Chicago       | 6-2   | Bill Foster       | Red Farrell     |
| 2    | Chicago       | Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Chicago       | 11-1  | Willie Powell     | Jesse Hubbard   |
| 3    | Chicago       | Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Chicago       | 7-0   | George Harney     | Jesse Hubbard   |
| 4    | Chicago       | Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Chicago       | 9-1   | Webster Mc Donald | Red Farrell     |
| 5    | Atlantic City | Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Atlantic City | 3-2   | Red Farrell       | Bill Foster     |
| 6    | Atlantic City | Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> | Tie Game      | 1-1   | -                 | -               |
| 7    | Atlantic City | Oct 11 <sup>th</sup> | Atlantic City | 8-1   | Red Farrell       | George Harney   |
| 8    | Atlantic City | Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> | Atlantic City | 6-5   | Jesse Hubbard     | Bill Foster     |
| 9    | Atlantic City | Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago       | 11-4  | Bill Foster       | Hubert Lockhart |

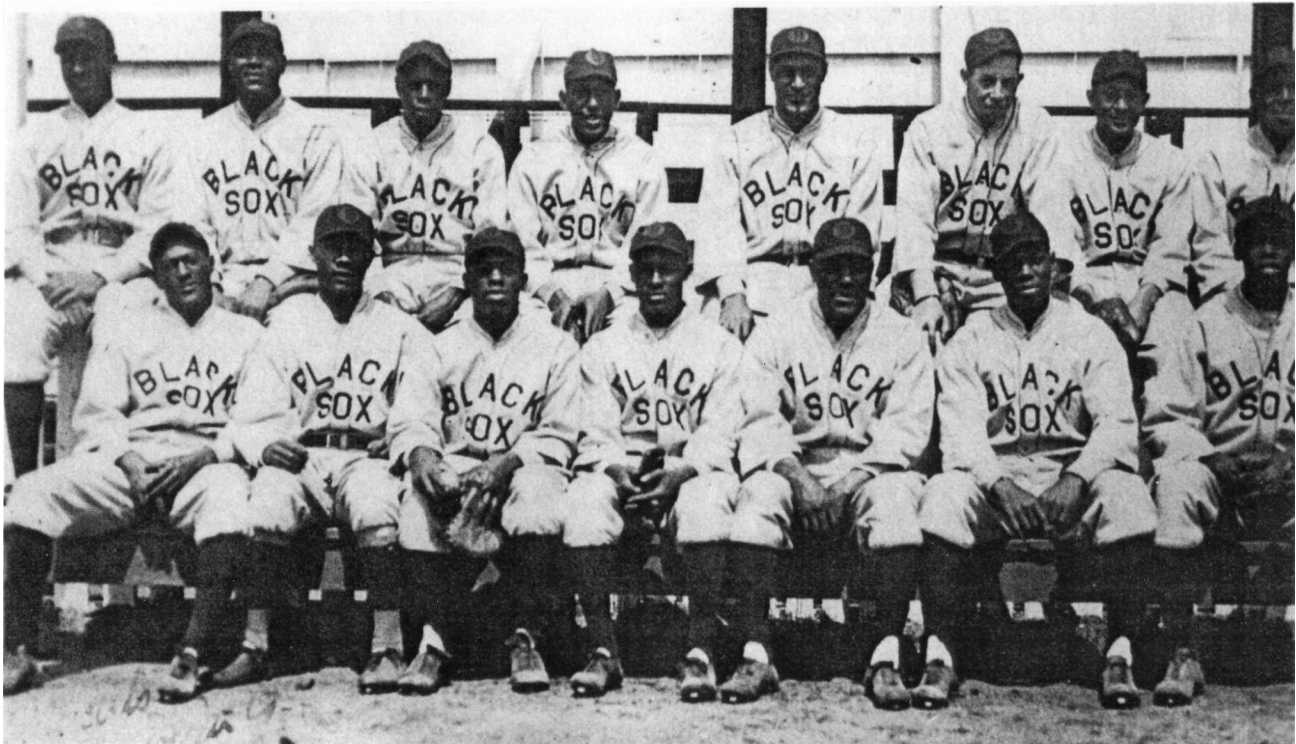
### Eastern Colored League Folds

The Bacharach Giants entered the 1928 season with high hopes. They had a new ball park and had just spent \$ 20,000 remodeling it. Atlantic City held spring training in Richmond, Virginia before returning north for the start of the Eastern Colored League (ECL) season. Unfortunately, they got off to a slow start at the beginning of the 1928 baseball season and were 10-13 (.435) in “league” play when the Eastern Colored League folded before mid season. After the league disbanded in June, the Bacharach Giants spent the rest of the season playing on an independent schedule basis. According to Negro League researcher John Holway, after their slow start to the season, Atlantic City finished the year with a won-loss record of 32-23 (.582). Along with the Homestead Grays, they were considered the two top black teams in the East in 1928.

Manager Dick Lundy paced the team in hitting with a .353 batting average. Atlantic City also got outstanding hitting from Chaney White (.352), Clarence “Fats” Jenkins (.342), Edward “Yump” Jones (.319), George “Tank” Carr (.315), Clint Thomas (.312), Jesse “Mountain” Hubbard (.304), Luther “Red” Farrell (.290) and Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle (.273) during the season. Red Farrell (11-15), Rats Henderson (10-4) and Jesse Hubbard (7-6) anchored the pitching staff.

### Baltimore’s “Million Dollar Infield”

Prior to the start of the 1929 baseball season, the American Negro League was formed. The following teams played in the league during the 1929 season: Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Baltimore Black Sox, Cuban Stars (East), Hilldale, Homestead Grays and the Lincoln Giants.



### Baltimore Black Sox (1929)

(Top row left to right – Robert “Eggie” Clark, Willis “Pud” Flournoy, Hosley “Scrip” Lee, **Oliver Marcelle**, Jesse “Mountain” Hubbard, Mervyn “Red” Ryan, Pete Washington and Bill Force.

Seated left to right – **Herbert “Rap” Dixon**, James Cooke, Harry Gomez, **Frank Warfield**, **Jud Wilson**, **Dick Lundy** and Laymon Yokely)

After finishing 20-22 the year before (1928), George Rossiter, owner of the Baltimore Black Sox, was determined to field the best team in the East. In an effort to bring a championship to Baltimore, Rossiter pulled off one of the biggest trades in Negro League baseball history when he sent Ben Taylor (first base and manager), Mack Eggleston (catcher) and cash to the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants for Dick Lundy and Oliver Marcelle. Upon his arrival in Baltimore, Dick Lundy was immediately made the team's manager and starting shortstop. This move also made Lundy and Marcelle part of Baltimore's famous "Million Dollar Infield" that included Jud Wilson (1B), Frank Warfield (2B), Dick Lundy (SS) and Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (3B). Rossiter also signed outfielder Herbert "Rap" Dixon to strengthen his hitting attack and defense in the outfield. When all the pieces were in place, Lundy had an excellent hitting team that included:

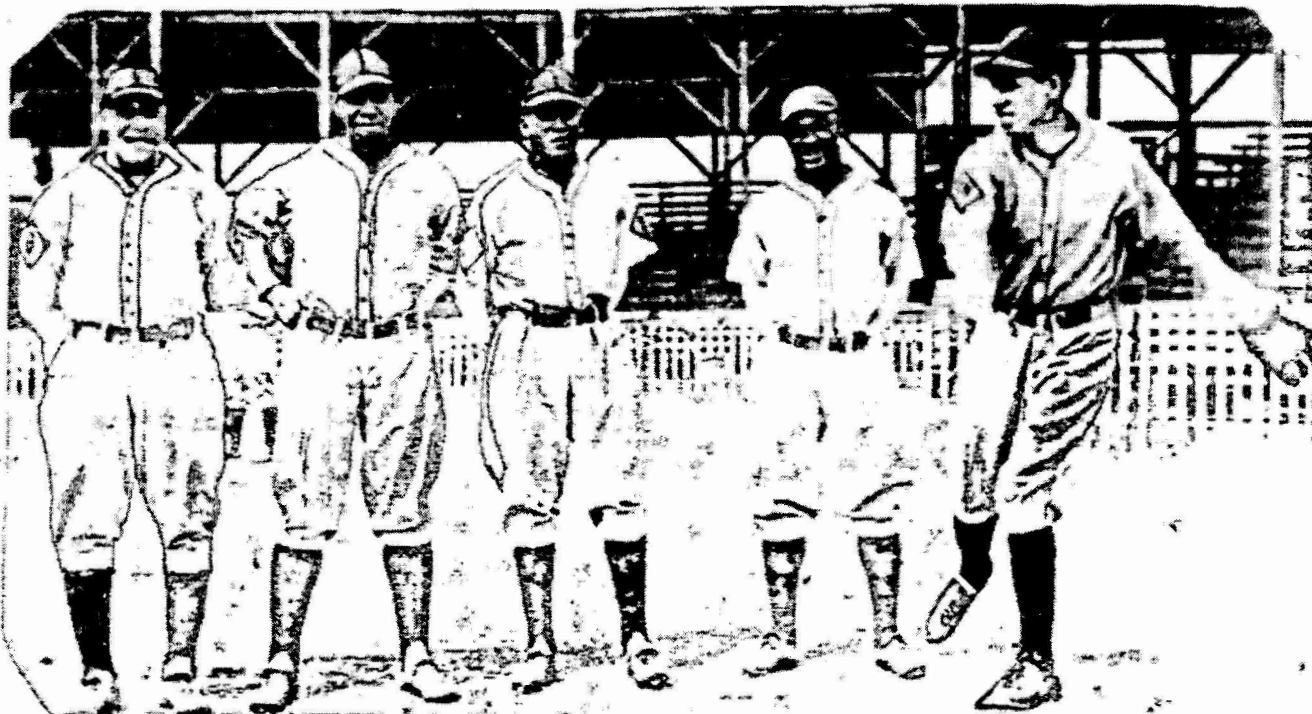
#### Baltimore Black Sox (1929)

| Player          | Position | Batting Average | Player          | Position | Batting Average |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Jud Wilson      | 1B       | .405            | Bob Clark       | C        | .286            |
| Frank Warfield  | 2B       | .271            | Pete Washington | OF       | .349            |
| Dick Lundy      | SS       | .336            | Rap Dixon       | OF       | .432            |
| Oliver Marcelle | 3B       | .307            | Buddy Burbage   | OF       | .450            |

Marcelle had a good season with the Black Sox in 42 "league" games for which box scores have been found, Oliver went 46 for 150 for a .307 batting average.

Lundy also had an excellent pitching staff in Baltimore that included Laymon Yokely (19-11), Mervyn "Red" Ryan (9-3), Willis "Pud" Flournoy (9-5), Hosely "Scrip" Lee (5-4) and Burnalle "Bun" Hayes (4-0). The Black Sox opened the American Negro League season on April 27<sup>th</sup> as they defeated the Cuban Stars 10-2 in Norfolk, Virginia.

#### BLACK SOX "MILLION DOLLAR" INFIELD



Here we have the Black Sox "million dollar" infield and "Red" Ryan, the sorrel-thatched fast ball artist, all of whom are looked upon to play a big part in the local's peasant winning aspirations. From left to right they are: Jud Wilson, 1b; Lundy, ss; Marcelle, 3b; Manager Frank Warfield, 2b, and "Red" Ryan.

—Afro Photo

Jud Wilson (1B), Dick Lundy (SS), **Oliver Marcelle** (3 B), Frank Warfield (2B) and Red Ryan (P)

Afro American

04-13-29

# Black Sox Player Jailed Following Fight in Cuba

Frank Warfield Arrested,  
Ollie Marcelle in Hospital,  
Following Battle.

## ARGUED OVER DEBT

Charges May be Quashed Be-  
Cause of American Status.

SANTA CLARA, Cuba. — Frank (Weasel) Warfield, manager of the Baltimore Black Sox baseball team, and leader of the Santa Clara team in the Cuban winter league, is in jail here, and Ollie Marcelle, Black Sox third baseman, playing with the Almendares team in the same league, is in a hospital with a badly lacerated nose, following an alleged altercation between the two players in a hotel, here, last week.

Warfield and Marcelle, it is reported, were engaged in a game of cards with several of the other players here. Marcelle is said to have been losing heavily, and asked Warfield for some money he claimed the Black Sox manager owed him from last summer. Upon the latter's denial of the debt, Marcelle is said to have made a lunge at Warfield, and in the ensuing scuffle, Marcelle's nose was badly bitten.

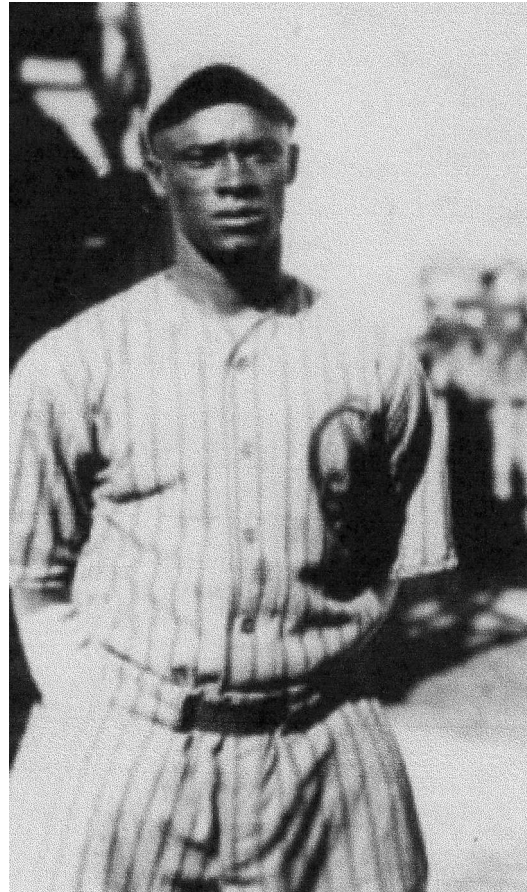
### Had Been Hostile

The injured player is said to have obtained a warrant for Warfield's arrest. It is understood that a hostile feeling had existed between the players for some time, starting during last season. On several occasions Warfield is said to have removed Marcelle from the game because he was not in condition or not up to form.

### Both Men Popular

This engendered a resentment that smoldered until its outburst here. Both players are popular here and in the United States as well and the altercation came as a distinct surprise to the fans who have turned out to see them in action. The case is scheduled to come up for an early hearing but the prevailing opinion here is that because both of the players are Americans, the charges will be quashed.

The winter league closed February 1, and most of the players, except a few remaining for exhibition games, have returned to the United States.



Frank Warfield  
Santa Clara Leopards  
Cuban Winter League

(An interesting side note is that Marcelle and Warfield were teammates with the Baltimore Black Sox during the 1929 American Negro League season. Warfield was the manager of the team and the starting second baseman.)

Rossiter's plan in bringing Lundy to Baltimore rewarded him with an American Negro League championship at the end of the season. The Baltimore Black Sox finished the regular season with a league record of 49-21 (.700) and an overall record (both "league" and "non-league" games) of 53-29 (.646).

The Baltimore Black Sox won the 1929 American Negro League championship. There was no Negro League World Series played in 1929. The following teams and their final order of finish for the 1929 American Negro League (ANL) season were as follows:

#### **American Negro League (1929)**

| <b>Team</b>         | <b>Games</b> | <b>Record</b> | <b>Pct.</b> | <b>Place</b>    |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Baltimore Black Sox | 70           | 49-21         | .700        | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Lincoln Giants      | 66           | 40-26         | .606        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Homestead Grays     | 63           | 34-29         | .540        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Hilldale            | 74           | 39-35         | .527        | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Bacharach Giants    | 64           | 19-45         | .298        | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cuban Stars (East)  | 54           | 15-39         | .278        | 6 <sup>th</sup> |

After the regular 1929 season was over, the Baltimore Black Sox met the Baltimore Orioles of the International League in a four game exhibition series. The Baltimore Orioles supplemented their roster with several members (Ed Rommel, Howard Ehmke, Curly Ogden and Ed Carroll) of the World Series Champion Philadelphia Athletics. The Black Sox totally dominated their "white" opponents. Laymon Yokely beat the Orioles in the three games he pitched by the scores of 5-2, 8-3 and 14-7. Hosely "Scrip" Lee picked up the other victory, defeating Ed Carroll and the Orioles by a score of 8-0.

The American Negro League folded before the start of the 1930 season. This left no formal league in the East for the 1930 baseball season.

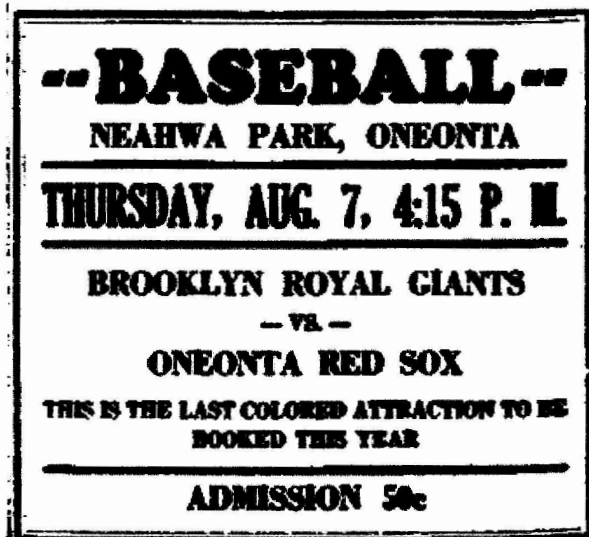
#### **Marcelle Returns from Cuba a Changed Man**

When he returned from Cuba in early 1930, Oliver Marcelle was not the same man he was when he went there to play winter ball. His fight with Frank Warfield left him permanently disfigured after Warfield bit off a large piece of Marcelle's nose. Clint Thomas (Negro League star outfielder who was also playing for Almendares) described the event as follows:

"They were shooting craps one night and Warfield was winning. Marcelle asked him to loan him five dollars. Warfield told him he wasn't going to loan him anything. They got into an argument. Marcelle smashed Warfield in the mouth. Warfield grabbed him, bit his nose off."

The damage to Oliver's nose was so bad he was forced to wear a patch over the nose when he played. Marcelle was a vain man and very proud of his handsome Creole looks. His disfigurement not only left him physically scared but also psychologically damaged. For the rest of his life, Marcelle would be the source of ridicule by opposing fans and players. With his inability to control his temper, he would never be the same ball player he once was.

Only one year before, Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle had been at the center of attention as part of the Baltimore Black Sox's "Million Dollar" infield. Marcelle did not return to the Black Sox, but instead signed to play third base for the Brooklyn Royal Giants for the 1930 baseball season. There was no formal league in the East in 1930. The top teams in the East during the season were the Homestead Grays, Baltimore Black Sox and New York Lincoln Giants. The Brooklyn Royal Giants were not one of the top teams in the 1930's.



Dick "Cannonball" Redding was the manager of the team. The top hitters for the Brooklyn Royal Giants were Elmore "Scrappy" Brown (SS), Chester Brooks (OF), Robert Hudspeth (1B), Ted Page (OF) and Namon Washington (OF). In the seven games for which box scores have been located with Marcelle in the line-up, "The Ghost" went 9 for 28 for a .321 batting average. Bob McClure, William Force, Dick Redding, John "Neck" Stanley and Otis Starks made up the Royal Giants pitching staff.

Oneonta Daily Star  
Oneonta, NY  
08-06-30

### Arthur "Daddy" Black's Providence Colored Giants

One of the top semi-pro leagues in the East during the 1920's and 1930's was the Boston Twilight League. Teams that played in the "league" were traditionally comprised of primarily former Major and Minor League players and the best college players in the East. When the 1931 Boston Twilight League schedule was announced, baseball fans in Boston were surprised to see that the Providence Colored Giants, an all-black team, had joined the league. The Colored Giants were owned and operated by Arthur "Daddy" Black, who had made his money in gambling and the numbers game in Rhode Island.

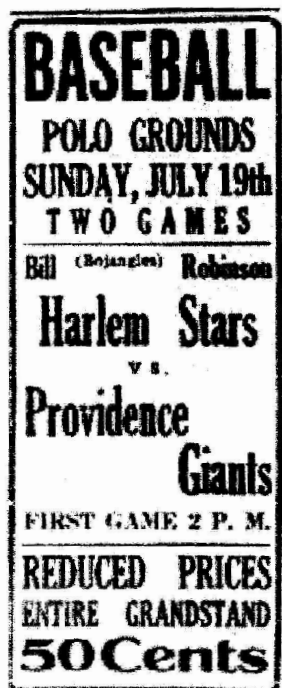
The Providence Colored Giants had been around for several years, but in 1931 "Daddy" Black put his money behind the team and was able to sign Marcelle and several other former Negro League players to play for the team. Oliver Marcelle was signed as player-manager of the team. Providence also signed the following former Negro League players to their roster: Elmore "Scrappy" Brown, Cliff Carter, Edward Dudley, Luther "Red" Farrell, George Fiall, Jesse "Mountain" Hubbard, Robert "High Pockets" Hudspeth, Elbert "Babe" Melton and Otis Starks.

The Colored Giants got off to a slow start and finished the first half of the season with a record of 13-8 (.619). This left them in third place in the Boston Twilight League standings behind Roslindale and St. John (New Brunswick, Canada). Providence got rolling in the second half of the season and won the second half of the Boston Twilight League season with a record of 12-3 (.800). Roslindale won the Boston Twilight League regular season title with a record of 30-8 (.789). The Providence Colored Giants ended the regular season in second place with a record of 25-11 (.694). Roslindale met Providence in a post-season championship series. Roslindale took the series by winning four games to two for Providence.

In August of 1931, the Providence Colored Giants met the Philadelphia Colored Giants who were led by Cannonball Will Jackman for the "Colored Championship of the East." The teams were supposed to play nine games in their championship series. Only two box scores have been found for the series. The Providence Colored Giants won the first game by a score of 7-4. The second game ended in a 13-13 tie.

Marcelle had an excellent season for the 1931 Providence Colored Giants. He put up the following numbers during the season:

| Year | Team       | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1934 | Providence | 34    | 103 | -    | 36   | 7  | 0  | 2  | -   | 2  | .350 | .476 |



Other players who had a good season for Providence included: Luther “Red” Farrell (.418), Jesse “Mountain” Hubbard (.391 with 10 home runs), Otis “Lefty” Stars (.385), Elbert “Babe” Melton (.351 with 12 homeruns), George Fiall (.344), Tom Dixon (.319) and Robert “High Pockets” Hudspeth (.303).

The Providence Colored Giants faded from the baseball scene in 1932, when Arthur “Daddy” Black made the decision to focus more on his gambling business. On September 24, 1932, “Daddy” Black was shot and killed when six men broke into his office to rob him.

Marcelle also played briefly with the Cuban Stars (East) and Cuban House of David during the 1931 season. Both teams played an independent barnstorming schedule.

In 1932 Oliver Marcelle was signed by Wilmington as a player-manager. Wilmington was the “unofficial” farm team of the Hilldale Club in the early 1930’s.

### **Barnstorming with the Miami Giants**

Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle joined the Miami Giants in 1933. The Miami Giants were owned by two bootleggers by the names of Johnny Pierce and Buck O’Neal (no relation to John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil and there is a different spelling of the last name). The team was managed by former Negro League pitcher (1920-1928) Wayne Carr. The Giants boasted a strong line-up that besides Marcelle included John “Buck” O’Neil (1B), Orville “Bill” Riggins (2B), Richard Gee (C) and Livingston “Winky” James (SS). The Miami Giants played an independent schedule, barnstorming all over the United States.

The Miami Giants started the 1933 season playing in Florida before they barnstormed north to Pennsylvania and New York. They continued playing baseball into the winter when they returned home to Florida.

Marcelle returned to the Miami Giants to play the 1934 baseball season. At the start of the season, the team left Miami in two old cars and headed north. They ended up in Harlem and stayed at the Woodside Hotel. Baseball in the East in the 1930’s was dominated by teams like the Homestead Grays, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Baltimore Black Sox and Bacharach Giants. The Miami Giants were considered a lower level team, but seemed to hold their own against the teams up North. Newspaper accounts have them with a 9-2 record early in the season. During their Northern barnstorming tour, the Miami Giants posted wins against the Baltimore Black Sox (2-0) and the Newark Dodgers (6-3). After their barnstorming tour of the Northeast, the Miami Giants barnstormed in the Midwest.

The Miami Giants struggled financially through the 1933 season and things didn’t get any better during their 1934 barnstorming season. The team struggled with booking dates, attendance at the games and was always on the verge of breaking up. The end to the team came late in the 1934 season when they were supposed to play a game in Goodland (Kansas). A snow storm cancelled the game. With the team financially broke, Carr released the players and everyone went their separate ways. Some of the players returned back to Florida. Oliver Marcelle went to Denver.

## Cuban Winter League Career

Oliver Marcelle made his first trip to Cuba in November of 1920 to play for the Bacharach Giants in the American Series. The American Series matched top baseball teams from the United States against the top professional teams in Cuba. The Bacharach Giants team featured the hitting of Oscar Charleston (OF), Dick Lundy (SS), Oliver Marcelle (3B), Louis Santop (C) and Charles Blackwell (OF). Bacharach's pitching staff included Phil Cockrell, Willis "Pud" Flournoy, Dick "Cannonball" Redding and Mervyn "Red" Ryan. Even with a star studded line-up, the Bacharach Giants managed only one victory in the four games they played against the Habana Leones and Almendares Alacranes. Dick "Cannonball" Redding beat Isidro Fabre and the Almendares Alacranes by a score of 3-2. After the American Series the Bacharach Giants stayed in Cuba to play in the 1920-21 Cuban Winter League season. Box scores indicate that Marcelle returned to the United States after the American Series and did not play in the Cuban Winter League for the 1920-21 season.

Marcelle returned to Cuba to play for the Santa Clara Leopards for the 1922-23 Cuban Winter League season that began on November 25, 1922 and concluded on February 24, 1923. Santa Clara which is located in the middle of the island had been added to the league in an attempt to expand the league's fan base. The Leopards were managed by Augustin "Tinti" Molina. They featured the hitting of Oscar Charleston (.446) and Alejandro Oms (.436). Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle's batting statistics are not available for the 1922-23 season. Dave Brown (4-3), Eustaquio "Bombin" Pedroso (4-3) and Bill Holland (3-4) were the team's leading pitchers. Santa Clara dropped out of the "league" on January 24<sup>th</sup>. They withdrew from the "league" in response to a ruling Cuban Winter League officials made that took away a victory from them and awarded it to the Marianao Tigers. The Santa Clara Leopards had a record of 14-13 when they dropped out of the league and forfeited their final 27 games. The Marianao Tigers won the Cuban Winter League title with a record of 35-19 (.648).

The Santa Clara Leopards returned to the Cuban Winter League for the 1923-24 season. Team owners, Abel Linares and Emilio de Armas, brought Augustin "Tinti" Molina back as their manager and then assembled one of the best teams if not the best team to ever play in the Cuban Winter League. The Leopards starting line-up for the 1923-24 season included:

### Santa Clara Leopards (1923-24)

| Position | Player               | Batting Average | Position | Player           | Batting Average |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1B       | Eddie Douglas        | .322            | OF       | Alejandro Oms    | .381            |
| 2B       | Frank Warfield       | .296            | OF       | Oscar Charleston | .328            |
| SS       | Walter "Dobie" Moore | .386            | OF       | Pablo Mesa       | .324            |
| 3B       | Oliver Marcelle      | .393            |          |                  |                 |
| C        | Frank Duncan         | .336            | Utility  | Julio Rojo       | .328            |

Santa Clara's pitching staff included Bill Holland (10-2), Rube Currie (8-2), Dave Brown (7-3), Mervyn "Red" Ryan (5-0) and Jose Mendez (3-1).

The Leopards finished the season with a team batting average of .331. Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle led the Leopards in hitting and won the Cuban Winter League batting title with a .393 batting average. Marcelle's complete batting statistics for the 1923-24 season were:

| Year    | Team        | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|---------|-------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1923-24 | Santa Clara | -     | 178 | 42   | 70   | 5  | 5  | 3  | -   | -  | .393 | .511 |



#### Santa Clara Leopards (1923-24)

(Standing left to right: **Jose Mendez, Oscar Charleston, Oliver "Ghost" Marcelle,** Mayari Montalvo, Frank Warfield and Julio Rojo. Middle row: **Frank Duncan, Alejandro Oms** and Pablo Mesa. Front row: Rube Currie, **Dave Brown, Walter "Dobie" Moore,** Pedro Dibut, Matais Rios and Bombin Pedroso)

The 1923-24 Cuban Winter League opened play on October 10<sup>th</sup> and ended on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Santa Clara Leopards dominated league competition all season. During the regular season they had one winning streak when they took 14 of 15 games and also won their final 6 games of the season. Santa Clara easily won the Cuban Winter League championship with a record of 36-11 (.766). They were an astonishing 11 ½ games ahead of the second place Habana Leones. The final standings for the 1923-24 Cuban Winter League season was as follows:

#### Cuban Winter League (1923-24)

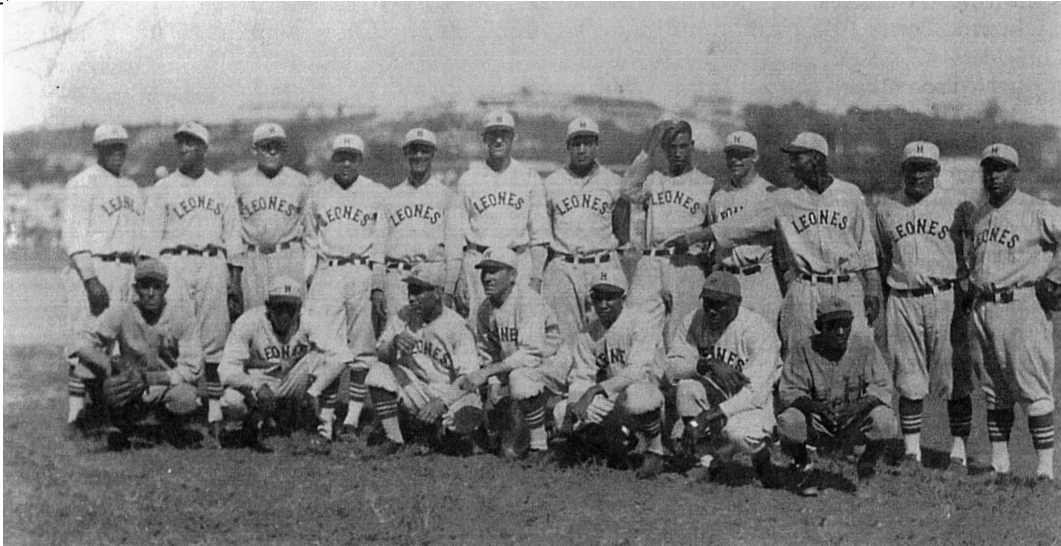
| Team                 | Record | Pct. | Games Behind | Place           |
|----------------------|--------|------|--------------|-----------------|
| Santa Clara Leopards | 36-11  | .766 | -            | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Habana Leones        | 25-23  | .521 | 11 ½         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Almendares Alacranes | 18-29  | .383 | 18           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Mariano Tigers       | 16-32  | .333 | 20 ½         | 4 <sup>th</sup> |

The 1923-24 Cuban Winter League season had been so successful that when it was over, Cuban baseball officials immediately organized a special season that was called "Gran Premio." The special season took only three days to put together. Three teams (Santa Clara, Habana and Almendares) competed in the twenty-five game season. They began play on January 19<sup>th</sup> and concluded play on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Santa Clara won the league title with a record of 13-12 (.520), Habana finished in second place with a record of 13-13 (.500) and Almendares was in third place with a 12-13 (.480) record. It was the most closely played season in the history of Cuban baseball history. The prime reason for such a competitive season was that Almendares and Habana picked up the best players from Mariano to bolster their roster before the start of the Gran Premio season.

Oliver Marcelle stayed in Cuba with the rest of his Santa Clara teammates to play in the Gran Premio season. Oscar Charleston (.365) was the only Leopards player to hit over .300 for the season. Walter "Dobie" Moore (.299) and Alejandro Oms (.290) were the team's next two best hitters. Oliver Marcelle struggled at the plate after winning the Cuban Winter League batting title. He collected only 28 hits in 105 at bats for a .267 batting average in his Gran Premio season. Dave Brown (4-2) and Bill Holland (4-34) were Santa Clara's top two pitchers.

Marcelle returned to Cuba to play for Santa Clara for the 1924-25 Cuban Winter League season. Santa Clara's attendance for their home games at Boulanger Park had been so poor that team owners moved the club to Matanzas during the season. Besides struggling with fan support, Santa Clara also struggled in the won-loss column. They finished the season in third place in the final "league" standings with a won-loss record of 20-28 (.417). Almendares paced by the hitting of John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.372), Clint Thomas (.371), Valentin Drake (.354) and Dick Lundy (.353) won the league championship with an impressive record of 33-16 (.673). Alejandro Oms (.393), Frank Warfield (.323), Esteban Montalvo (.314) and Oliver Marcelle (.310) led the Santa Clara hitting attack. The team's pitching rotation was made up of Bill Holland (7-8), Sam Streeter (4-2) Dave Brown (2-4) and Jose Mendez (2-3).

When Santa Clara did not field a team for the 1925-26 season, Marcelle was signed by the Habana Leones. The Leones top hitters for the 1925-26 season were Jud Wilson (.430), Miguel Gonzalez (.407) and Martin Dihigo (.344). Oliver Marcelle had a decent season for Habana by hitting .288. Oscar Levis (8-4) was the ace of the pitching staff. Juan Eckelson (4-2) and Oscar Tuero (4-1) also had good seasons on the mound for the Habana Leones. The Almendares Alacranes were the league champions with a 34-13 (.723) record. Habana was only two games behind in second place with a 32-15 (.681) record. It is important to note that both teams' records were highly skewed because they include forfeited victories when San Jose dropped out of the league on December 25<sup>th</sup>.



#### **Habana Leones (1926)**

(Standing left to right – **Alejandro Oms**, Champion Mesa, Eugenio Morin, Pelayo Chacon, Paito Herrera, Mike Gonzalez, Luther Farrell, **Martin Dihigo**, Ramon Gonzalez, Julio Rojo, **Cristobal Torriente** and Oscar Levis.

Kneeling left to right – Ricardo Torres, **Oliver Marcelle**, Jesse Winters, Rafael Quintana, **Jud Wilson** and David Gomez)

Before the start of the 1926-27 Cuban Winter League a rival "league" was formed to challenge the "official" Cuban Winter League. The "original" Cuban Winter League featured four teams (Almendares, Cienfuegos, Cuba and Habana) and played their season from October 9, 1926 to January 3, 1927. This "new" league was called the Triangular League because it featured three teams (Alacranes, Havana Reds and Marianao) and played their season from October 28, 1926 to February 6, 1927. The Triangular League played their games at the University of Habana Stadium in Habana. The owners of the teams in the Triangular League had more money and were willing to spend it to lure many of the top players away from the "official" league. Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle is one of the players who signed with the "new" league. Marcelle was signed by the Havana Reds as their starting third baseman.

Other top players who jumped to the Triangular League and their statistics for the season were as follows:

**Alacranes** – George “Tank” Carr, (.416), Judy Johnson (.374), Dick Lundy (.410). Adolfo Luque (10-6) and Clint Thomas (.331).

**Havana Reds** – Oscar Charleston (.404) and Oliver Marcelle (.333)

**Marianao** – Isidro Fabre (4-4), Oscar Levis (3-1), Pablo Mesa (.433), Alejandro Oms (.366) and Charles “Chino” Smith (.342)

The Alacranes were loaded with the most talent and walked away with the league title. The final order of finish for the 1926-27 Triangular season was as follows:

#### Triangular League (1926-27)

| Team        | Won-Loss | Pct. | Place           |
|-------------|----------|------|-----------------|
| Alacranes   | 22-15    | .595 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Havana Reds | 16-19    | .457 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Marianao    | 13-17    | .433 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |

The Triangular League only lasted one season.



**Mallorquina Baseball Card (Cuba)**  
(1927-28)

Marcelle returned to Cuba in November of 1927 to play for the Almendares Alacranes for the 1927-28 Cuban Winter League. The Alacranes were managed by Adolfo Luque and featured a strong hitting lineup that included: Chaney White (.363), John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.353), Oliver Marcelle (.336), Dick Lundy (.321) and George Scales (.282). Unfortunately, other than Adolfo Luque (6-4), no other Almendares pitcher delivered. The Alacranes had a 17-14 record when they played the Habana Leones on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Habana handed Almendares a humiliating 18-4 loss. After the defeat, Almendares dropped out of the league. They forfeited their final eight games and finished the season in last place with a 17-23 (.425) record. The Habana Leones won the Cuban Winter League championship with a 24-13 (.649) won-loss record and Cuba finished in second place with a 16-21(.432) record.

When Oliver Marcelle went to Cuba to play the 1928-29 winter league season, he switched teams and signed with Team Cuba. Several other Negro League players besides Marcelle signed with Team Cuba, but most including Oliver had off seasons. Marcelle hit a mere .248 for the season.

Other Team Cuba players who had down seasons were Larry Brown (.220), Pelayo Chacon (.148) and Jasper “Jap” Washington (.264). Judy Johnson (.3421), Oscar Charleston (.333) and Bernardo Baro were the only three players on the team to hit over .300 for the season. Adolfo Luque was the ace of the pitching staff with an 8-4 won-loss record. The 1928-29 Cuban Winter League season came to an abrupt end in early January when Team Cuba withdrew from the league on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cienfuegos withdrew a short time later. This left the Habana Leones as the only team in the league. They were awarded the league title with a 43-12 (.782) record. The highlight of the 1928-29 winter league season was when James “Cool Pappa” Bell of Cienfuegos hit three (3) inside the park homeruns in one game on January 1, 1929.

Oliver Marcelle returned to the Almendares Alacranes for the 1929-30 season. Like the year before, Marcelle had a poor season hitting and finished the season with a .241 batting average. Only Dick Lundy (.333) was able to hit over .300 for the season for the Alacranes. Johnny Allen (7-4) was the ace of the Almendares pitching staff. With poor hitting and only mediocre pitching, the Almendares Alacranes finished the season in third place with a 23-26 (.469) record behind league champion Cienfuegos (32-19). This was Marcelle’s last winter league season in Cuba.

### **Career Changing Altercation**

In February of 1930, Oliver Marcelle suffered what turned out to be a career changing injury. While gambling with Frank “Weasel” Warfield and several other players in a hotel in Santa Clara (Cuba), Marcelle and Warfield (who also was well known for his unstable temper) got into a fight. The fight supposedly started after Marcelle lost all of his money and started demanding Warfield give him money that was owed to him from the previous season. Warfield evidently adamantly refused and the fight broke out when Oliver lunged at Frank. The fight quickly turned into a vicious brawl. During the fight Warfield bit off a big piece of Marcelle’s nose. Warfield ended up in jail and Marcelle ended up in the hospital. The injury forced Marcelle to wear a patch or piece of tape over his nose for the rest of his career. Oliver Marcelle took great pride in his good looks and was said to never have been the same after the injury. Marcelle had problems dealing with the derogatory comments about his appearance from opposing players and their fans.

### **Integrating the Denver Post Tournament**

The Denver Post Tournament was the most prestigious baseball tournament in the United States for semipro and independent teams. From its inception in 1915 until 1934 it was segregated like the rest of baseball in the United States. According to Chet Brewer, legendary pitching star for the Kansas City Monarchs, it was Oliver Marcelle that gave Charles “Poss” Parsons of the Denver Post newspaper the idea to invite the Kansas City Monarchs to participate in the 1934 tournament. Marcelle had made his home in Denver after his Negro League career was over and was well-known on the local semipro baseball scene. The idea made good sense to Parsons because he had already planned on inviting the House of David and he knew that a match-up between the House of David and Kansas City Monarchs could provide record setting crowds.

There were 18 teams invited to the 1934 Denver Post Tournament. Going into the tournament, the House of David and the Kansas City Monarchs were the two overwhelming favorites to win the title. To bolster their roster for the tournament, the House of David added Satchel Paige and his catcher Cy Perkins to their roster. The Kansas City Monarchs brought a strong line-up to the tournament that featured the hitting of Newt Allen (2B), Sam Bankhead (OF), James “Cool Pappa” Bell (OF), Frank Duncan (C), George Giles (1B), Newt Joseph (3B), Norman “Turkey” Stearnes (OF) and Willie Wells (SS). Kansas City also had a strong pitching staff that included Chet Brewer, Charles “Hooks” Beverly, Andy Cooper, John Donaldson, Willie Foster and Wilber “Bullet” Rogan. The two teams did not disappoint the Denver fans. Both teams breezed through their competition in the early rounds. In the semifinal game, Satchel Paige of the House of David defeated Chet Brewer and the Monarchs by a score of 2-1 before a sellout crowd of 11,120 fans at

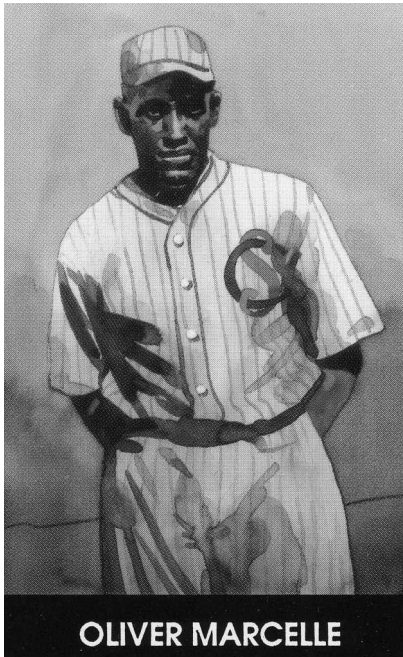
Merchant Park. In the championship game, Spike Hunter of the House of David shut out Chet Brewer and Kansas City by a score of 2-0. The victory gave the House of David the Denver Post Tournament championship.

With the color barrier for the Denver Post Tournament broken, Joe Alpert Clothiers of Denver and A.H.W. Ross's Denver White Elephants solicited Marcelle to recruit Negro League players for their teams for the 1935 tournament. Oliver Marcelle contacted members of his old team the Miami Giants and recruited them to come to Denver and play as the Joe Alpert Clothiers team. The Miami Giants team included a young John "Buck" O'Neil as their starting first baseman. Marcelle was signed to play third base for Joe Alpert Clothiers during the tournament. Marcelle also recruited six other Negro League players to join the Denver White Elephants for tournament play. There were sixteen teams that played in the Denver Post Tournament in 1935. United Fuel of Denver won the tournament, the Denver White Elephants finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place and Joe Alpert Clothiers ended up in a distant 13<sup>th</sup> place.

The 1936 Denver Post Tournament was dominated by the Negro League All Stars. The team included five future National Baseball Hall of Fame players (James "Cool Pappa" Bell, Ray Brown, Josh Gibson, Walter "Buck" Leonard and Satchel Paige). Oliver Marcelle played third base for the Denver Monarchs in the 1936 tournament. According to a story in the Denver Post, it was Marcelle's brilliant defensive play at third base that preserved an 8-7 upset victory for the Denver Monarchs over McVitte's House of David team. The Denver Monarchs finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place in the 18 team tournament. The Negro League All Stars went undefeated in the tournament and easily won the championship title.

Oliver Marcelle made his last appearance in the Denver Post Tournament in 1937 when he was the starting third baseman for the Goalstone Brothers Jewelers baseball team from Denver. The sixteen team tournament was dominated by the Ciudad Trujillo team that included Satchel Paige, James "Cool Pappa" Bell and Josh Gibson. Leroy Matlock pitched the Ciudad Trujillo team to an 11-2 victory over the Haliburton Cementers of Duncan, Oklahoma in the championship game. Marcelle's Goalstone team finished the tournament in 13<sup>th</sup> place.

### A Negro League Legend Quietly Passes Away



After his baseball playing days were over, Oliver Marcelle made his home in Denver, Colorado. He made a living as a house painter and doing odd jobs around town. Marcelle also occasionally played semipro ball in the Denver area. Unfortunately, the proud man from New Orleans lived out his final days in abject poverty. He was estranged from his family.

Years of drinking finally caught up with him in 1949. Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle passed away on June 12, 1949 in Denver, Colorado of arteriosclerosis. He was nine days shy of his 54<sup>th</sup> birthday. Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle who had once been at the forefront of Negro League baseball in the United States died alone, indigent and unnoticed. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the middle of block 29 in Riverside Cemetery in Denver, Colorado. Through the efforts of local Denver resident Jay Sanford, a headstone was finally placed on his gravesite on June 1, 1991 (42 years after his death). His friend John "Buck" O'Neil penned the following words on his grave marker:

"Baseball's best third baseman brought black professional baseball to Colorado."

## Assessing Oliver Marcelle's Career

1. Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle is considered as the **best defensive third baseman in the history of Negro League baseball**. Three factors that support this contention are the fact that he was named to the Pittsburgh Courier All Time All Star Team in 1952, secondly are Judy Johnson's assessment of Oliver Marcelle's defensive capabilities and thirdly is how was viewed by his fellow ball players.

- The Pittsburgh Courier printed the following evaluation of Oliver Marcelle when he was elected to their All Time All Star Team in 1952 as the First Team starting third base man.

"Oliver Marcelle could do everything! A fielding gem he could go to his right or his left with equal facility. He was a ball player's ball player and the idol of fandom."

- Judy Johnson who also played third base and was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1975 also played third base and saw all the best Negro Leaguers play. In an interview with Negro League historian John Holway, Johnson had the following to say about Oliver Marcelle's defensive skills:

"...he was wonderful, made all the plays look easy. I went to Cuba five times and never played third base. I had to play second base and Marcelle played third."

- Bill Holland was a former teammate and shared the following when interviewed by John Holway:

"He had a lot of guts. Just pure nerve. I've seen Marcelle be in looking for a bunt, the guy hit the ball down the line, and he'd dive and catch the ball, get up and throw the man out. That takes heart."

- Negro Leaguer Buddy Burbage (1928-1951) had the following to say about Oliver Marcelle:

"There was nobody else like him. He was legendary at his position and other players regarded him with awe."

Along with shortstop Dick Lundy they formed one of the best left sides of an infield in the history of Negro League baseball. Marcelle and Lundy played together with the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1920-1921 and 1925-1928) and the Baltimore Black Sox (1929). Oliver also teamed with shortstop John Henry "Pop" Lloyd with the Brooklyn Royal Giants (1918-1919) and the Bacharach Giants of New York (1923). Lastly, Oliver played with shortstop Walter "Dobie" Moore in Cuba for the 1923-24 Santa Clara Leopards.

2. Even though different researchers have different yearly and career batting averages for Marcelle, all agree that **Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle was a very good hitter**. The following chart presents the yearly batting averages for Marcelle as collected by six different researchers. The difference in statistics is that different researchers have different games and box scores for which they have analyzed. In addition some researchers only report "league" games while other researchers combine both "league" and "non-league" games in their totals. It is important to keep in mind that for the years with what appears to be an extremely high or low batting average, this is most likely due to a small sample size.

### Comparison of Oliver Marcelle's Yearly Batting Averages by Leading Researchers

|      | Larry Lester & Dick Clark | John Holway | James Riley | Baseball Reference | MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia | Seamheads | Difference |
|------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1918 | .091                      | .111        | -           | .267               | .133                            | .267      | 176        |
| 1919 | .188                      | .462        | .229        | .282               | .467                            | .282      | 279        |
| 1920 | .286                      | .323        | -           | .284               | .207                            | .258      | 116        |
| 1921 | .354                      | .299        | .305        | .321               | .305                            | .331      | 55         |
| 1922 | .265                      | .265        | .364        | .281               | .364                            | .286      | 99         |
| 1923 | .296                      | .306        | .295        | .293               | .295                            | .337      | 44         |
| 1924 | .301                      | .316        | .343        | .302               | .343                            | -         | 42         |
| 1925 | .312                      | .321        | .308        | .297               | .308                            | -         | 24         |
| 1926 | .251                      | .288        | .255        | .259               | .255                            | -         | 29         |
| 1927 | .304                      | .326        | .306        | .312               | .306                            | -         | 22         |
| 1928 | .273                      | .288        | .296        | .272               | .296                            | -         | 24         |
| 1929 | .307                      | .288        | .288        | .294               | .275                            | -         | 32         |
| 1930 | .321                      | .308        | -           | .400               | .320                            | -         | 92         |

The following chart presents the research for five different researchers in relationship to Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle's career batting average. It is important to note that Larry Lester/Dick Clark and the Center for Negro League Baseball Research's statistics only include "league" games. John Holway combines both "league" and "non-league" games in his totals as well as Marcelle's statistics from Cuba.

### Comparison of Oliver Marcelle's Career Batting Average by Leading Researchers

|                 | Larry Lester & Dick Clark | John Holway | Baseball Reference | MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia | Center for Negro League Baseball Research |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| At Bats         | 1949                      | 2391        | 1501               | 1455                            | 2078                                      |
| Hits            | 568                       | 723         | 441                | 443                             | 620                                       |
| Batting Average | .291                      | .302        | .294               | .304                            | .298                                      |

In addition to a very good career batting average in the Negro Leagues, Oliver Marcelle hit well wherever he played throughout his entire career.

- In 19 exhibition games against Major League teams, Marcelle collected 26 hits in 80 at bats for a .325 batting average. In addition, Marcelle faced Adolfo Luque (all-time pitching wins leader in Cincinnati Reds baseball history) 36 times when they played in the Cuban Winter League. Oliver collected 15 hits in his 36 at bats for a .417 batting average and a .556 slugging percentage.
- Marcelle played eight (8) winter league seasons in Cuba and compiled a .305 career batting average.
- Even late in his career when he was 36 years old and was the player-manager of the Providence Colored Giants, "The Ghost" proved he could still hit the ball. Marcelle hit .350 for the Providence Colored Giants 1931 season in the Boston Twilight League.

3. When analyzing Oliver Marcelle's career, there is a significant **problem of missing statistics**. Marcelle played professional baseball from 1917 to 1934. We currently have located only 3,394 official at bats for him. We are still missing hundreds of games and several thousand plate appearance. In addition we are missing various statistics for years for which we have some of his hitting statistics.
4. Oliver Marcelle's **fiery temper definitely had a negative impact on his career**. His inability to control his emotions and temper coupled with his drinking and gambling constantly got him in trouble. Unfortunately, Marcelle mixed alcohol and violence together throughout his entire life. Managers and team mates obviously put up with his difficult personality as a trade-off for having his defensive skills and offensive production on their team. Marcelle was often described by individuals who played with and against him as "hot tempered," "wild," "nasty" and "violent." He had the knack of constantly antagonizing and fighting with fans, opposing players, teammates, umpires and anyone else who crossed his path. Marcelle proved to be difficult to manage his entire career.

Examples of how Oliver Marcelle's personality and life style constantly kept him in trouble are as follows:

- After a night of drinking, Marcelle, Dave Brown and Frank Wickware were involved in the murder of Benjamin Adair on May 2, 1925.
- His fight with Frank Warfield in Cuba in 1929 left him disfigured and seemed to drain the life out of him. Ashamed and embarrassed about his appearance, Marcelle played out the final years of his career on the fringes of Negro League baseball away from the spot light. Bill Yancey (former Negro League player from 1923-1936) shared the following with Robert Peterson (author of Only the Ball was White) of how the incident affected Oliver Marcelle's career.

"He was a proud, handsome guy, you know, and then he used to wear a black patch across his nose and he got so he couldn't play baseball anymore."

- Once during a game, Marcelle got into an argument with his teammate Oscar Charleston and to settle the dispute he hit Charleston over the head with a bat.
- According to former teammates, Oliver was always arguing and squabbling with the opposing team, the umpires and fans. Unfortunately for Marcelle, he often let taunting by the opposing players and fans affect his play and judgment on the field.

In 1924 a New York Age editorial blamed the New York Lincoln Giants poor performance on their temperamental stars Oliver Marcelle and George Scales. The newspaper had the following to say about "The Ghost."

"He was a victim of almost uncontrollable temper, as he let fans and umpires get his goat."

According to John "Buck" O'Neil, Oliver Marcelle was well respected by fellow players but had few friends. He drank a lot and when he drank he was most often in a very nasty disposition. Marcelle would fight at the drop of a hat.

In conclusion, Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle was a great ball player who has never gotten the recognition he deserves. Defensively Marcelle had no equal in Negro League baseball. Offensively he was a solid player with a .300 career batting average. Other than his fiery temper, he had no weakness on the field. He is truly a "Forgotten Hero."

## Playing Career

### Regular Season:

| Year      | Team                           | League                                   |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1913      | Giovanni's (New Orleans, LA)   | Sandlot Team                             |
| 1914-1915 | New Orleans Black Eagles       | Independent                              |
| 1917      | (name of team unknown)         | Texas Negro League                       |
| 1918      | Brooklyn Royal Giants          | Independent                              |
| 1918      | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Independent                              |
| 1919      | Brooklyn Royal Giants          | Independent                              |
| 1919      | Hilldale                       | Independent                              |
| 1919      | Detroit Stars                  | Independent                              |
| 1920      | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Independent                              |
| 1921      | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Negro National League (Associate Member) |
| 1922      | Bacharach Giants of New York   | Independent                              |
| 1923-1925 | New York Lincoln Giants        | Eastern Colored League                   |
| 1925-1928 | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Eastern Colored League                   |
| 1928      | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Independent                              |
| 1929      | Baltimore Black Sox            | American Negro League                    |
| 1930      | Brooklyn Royal Giants          | Independent                              |
| 1931      | Providence Colored Giants      | Boston Twilight League                   |
| 1931      | Cuban Stars (East)             | Independent                              |
| 1931      | Cuban House of David           | Independent                              |
| 1932      | Wilmington                     | Independent                              |
| 1933-1934 | Miami Giants                   | Independent                              |



### Cuban Winter League (1923-24)

(Top row – left to right **Oscar Charleston**, **Matias Rios**, **Walter “Dobie” Moore** and **Oliver Marcelle**. Middle row – **Augustin Molina**. Bottom row – left to right **Oscar “Heavy” Johnson**, **Bill Holland**, **Pablo Mesa** and **Alejandro Oms**)

## Winter Leagues:

|         |                                      |                                                                       |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1920    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Game vs Babe Ruth All Stars                                           |
| 1920    | Bacharach Giants                     | American Series (Cuba)                                                |
| 1921    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Championship Series vs Hilldale                                       |
| 1921    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Championship Series vs<br>Chicago American Giants                     |
| 1921    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Exhibition Series vs Philadelphia A's                                 |
| 1922    | Bacharach Giants of New York         | Championship Series vs<br>Chicago American Giants                     |
| 1922-23 | Santa Clara Leopards                 | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1923-24 | Santa Clara Leopards                 | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1924    | Harrisburg Giants                    | Exhibition Series (September)                                         |
| 1924    | Santa Clara Leopards                 | Gran Premio – Special Season (Cuba)                                   |
| 1924-25 | Santa Clara-Matanzas                 | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1925    | New York Lincoln Giants              | Game vs Bronx Giants w/ Lou Gehrig                                    |
| 1925-26 | Habana Leones                        | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1926    | Habana Leones                        | Post Season Barnstorming                                              |
| 1926    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Negro League World Series vs<br>Chicago American Giants               |
| 1926-27 | Havana Reds                          | Triangular – Special Season (Cuba)                                    |
| 1927    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Negro League World Series vs<br>Chicago American Giants               |
| 1927-28 | Almendares Alacranes                 | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1928    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants       | Exhibition Series vs Philadelphia A's                                 |
| 1928-29 | Cuba                                 | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1929    | Baltimore Black Sox                  | Series vs Major League All Stars                                      |
| 1929-30 | Almendares Alacranes                 | Cuban Winter League                                                   |
| 1931    | Providence Colored Giants            | Post-season Championship Series vs<br>Roslindale                      |
| 1931    | Providence Colored Giants            | Colored Championship of East Series vs<br>Philadelphia Colored Giants |
| 1935    | Joe Alpert's Clothiers (Denver)      | Denver Post Tournament                                                |
| 1936    | Denver Monarchs                      | Denver Post Tournament                                                |
| 1937    | Goalstone Brothers Jewelers (Denver) | Denver Post Tournament                                                |



**Almendares Alacranes (1929-30)**  
(Marcelle – seated second from right)

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

| Year  | Team          | Games | AB   | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|-------|---------------|-------|------|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1918  | Brooklyn      | 19    | 75   | 14   | 20   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 4   | 4  | .267 | .267 |
| 1919  | Brooklyn      | 10    | 39   | 5    | 11   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 1  | .282 | .308 |
| 1920  | Atlantic City | 36    | 132  | 21   | 34   | 7  | 4  | 0  | 13  | 2  | .258 | .371 |
| 1921  | Atlantic City | 61    | 226  | 48   | 80   | 8  | 5  | 1  | 35  | 8  | .354 | .447 |
| 1922  | New York      | 57    | 227  | 40   | 65   | 11 | 2  | 1  | 29  | 4  | .286 | .366 |
| 1923  | New York      | 27    | 101  | 18   | 34   | 2  | 1  | 1  | 14  | 4  | .337 | .406 |
| 1924  | New York      | 54    | 209  | 49   | 63   | 13 | 3  | 1  | 39  | 9  | .301 | .407 |
| 1925  | New York      | 71    | 253  | 43   | 79   | 6  | 5  | 3  | 34  | 5  | .312 | .411 |
|       | Atlantic City |       |      |      |      |    |    |    |     |    |      |      |
| 1926  | Atlantic City | 59    | 207  | 35   | 52   | 4  | 1  | 1  | 25  | 2  | .251 | .295 |
| 1927  | Atlantic City | 79    | 289  | 37   | 88   | 10 | 3  | 1  | 32  | 8  | .304 | .370 |
| 1928  | Atlantic City | 39    | 144  | 22   | 40   | 4  | 2  | 1  | 10  | 1  | .278 | .354 |
| 1929  | Baltimore     | 42    | 150  | 17   | 46   | 3  | 1  | 0  | 8   | 5  | .307 | .340 |
| 1930  | Brooklyn      | 7     | 28   | 2    | 9    | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .321 | .357 |
| 1931  | Cuban Stars   | 1     | 3    | 0    | 1    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .333 | .333 |
| Total |               | 562   | 2083 | 351  | 622  | 70 | 27 | 10 | 244 | 53 | .299 | .373 |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Negro League - Championship Series)

| Year  | Team          | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG |
|-------|---------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1921  | Atlantic City | 4     | 15 | -    | 6    | -  | -  | 1  | 3   | -  | .400 | -   |
| 1922  | New York      | 6     | 24 | -    | 6    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .250 | -   |
| Total |               | 10    | 39 | -    | 12   | -  | -  | 1  | 3   | -  | .308 | -   |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Negro League World Series)

| Year  | Team          | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG |
|-------|---------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|-----|
| 1926  | Atlantic City | 10    | 36 | -    | 12   | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .333 | -   |
| 1927  | Atlantic City | 9     | 34 | -    | 8    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .235 | -   |
| Total |               | 19    | 70 | -    | 20   | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .286 | -   |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Games)

| Year  | Team          | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|-------|---------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1920  | Atlantic City | 1     | 4  | -    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .250 | -    |
| 1921  | Atlantic City | 4     | 18 | 6    | 8    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0  | .440 | .444 |
| 1924  | Harrisburg    | 3     | 11 | 3    | 3    | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 1  | .273 | .364 |
| 1925  | Atlantic City | 4     | 19 | 2    | 8    | 0  | 2  | 0  | 6   | 0  | .421 | .632 |
| 1927  | Atlantic City | 1     | 3  | 1    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .333 | -    |
| 1928  | Atlantic City | 3     | 13 | -    | 3    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .230 | -    |
| 1929  | Baltimore     | 4     | 16 | 2    | 3    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .188 | -    |
| Total |               | 20    | 84 | 14   | 27   | 1  | 2  | 0  | 10  | 1  | .321 | -    |

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

| Year  | Team             | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA    | SLG   |
|-------|------------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|-------|-------|
| 1918  | Brooklyn         | 1     | 3  | 1    | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000  | .000  |
| 1921  | Atlantic City    | 1     | 4  | -    | 3    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .750  | -     |
| 1922  | Bacharach Giants | 4     | 16 | 2    | 6    | 1  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .375  | -     |
| 1923  | New York         | 4     | 16 | 4    | 7    | 1  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .438  | -     |
| 1924  | New York         | 1     | 1  | 1    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | 1.000 | -     |
| 1925  | New York         | 1     | 4  | 0    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .250  | -     |
| 1925  | Atlantic City    | 1     | 4  | 0    | 2    | 2  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .500  | 1.000 |
| 1926  | Atlantic City    | 1     | 3  | 0    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .333  | -     |
| 1929  | Baltimore        | 1     | 4  | 2    | 3    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .750  | -     |
| 1930  | Brooklyn         | 1     | 3  | 0    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .333  | -     |
| Total |                  | 16    | 58 | 10   | 25   | 4  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .431  | -     |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Boston Twilight League)

| Year | Team       | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1931 | Providence | 34    | 103 | -    | 36   | 7  | 0  | 2  | -   | 2  | .350 | .476 |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuba)

| Year    | Team        | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|---------|-------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1923-24 | Santa Clara | -     | 178 | 42   | 70   | 5  | 5  | 3  | -   | -  | .393 | .511 |
| 1924    | Santa Clara | -     | 105 | 11   | 28   | -  | -  | -  | -   | 2  | .267 | -    |
| 1924-25 | Santa Clara | -     | 126 | 20   | 39   | 5  | 3  | -  | -   | 0  | .310 | -    |
| 1925-26 | Havana      | -     | 80  | 12   | 23   | 3  | 1  | 0  | -   | 0  | .288 | .350 |
| 1926-27 | Havana      | -     | 78  | 15   | 26   | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .333 | -    |
| 1927-28 | Almendares  | -     | 119 | 17   | 40   | 8  | 1  | 1  | -   | 1  | .336 | .445 |
| 1928-29 | Cuba        | -     | 113 | 11   | 28   | 5  | 1  | 1  | -   | 0  | .248 | .336 |
| 1929-30 | Almendares  | -     | 158 | 20   | 38   | 1  | 2  | 1  | -   | -  | .241 | .291 |
| Total   |             |       | 957 | 148  | 292  | 27 | 13 | 6  | -   | 3  | .305 | -    |

### Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

|                        | Games | AB   | Runs | Hits | 2B  | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| Negro League           | 562   | 2083 | 351  | 622  | 70  | 27 | 10 | 244 | 53 | .299 | .373 |
| Championship Series    | 10    | 39   | -    | 12   | -   | -  | 1  | 3   | -  | .308 | -    |
| World Series           | 19    | 70   | -    | 20   | -   | -  | -  | -   | -  | .286 | -    |
| Non-League Games       | 16    | 58   | 10   | 25   | 4   | -  | -  | -   | -  | .431 | -    |
| Exhibition Games       | 20    | 84   | 14   | 27   | 1   | 2  | 0  | 10  | 1  | .321 | -    |
| Boston Twilight League | 34    | 103  | -    | 36   | 7   | 0  | 2  | -   | 2  | .350 | .476 |
| Cuba                   | -     | 957  | 148  | 292  | 27  | 13 | 6  | -   | 3  | .305 | -    |
| Total                  | -     | 3394 | 523  | 1034 | 109 | 42 | 19 | 257 | 59 | .305 | -    |

## Managing Career Record

| Year | Team                      | League                 | Record | Pct. | Place           |
|------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------|------|-----------------|
| 1931 | Providence Colored Giants | Boston Twilight League | 25-11  | .694 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |

## Championship Teams

During his career, Oliver Marcelle played on the following seven (7) championship teams.

| Year    | Team                           | League                                        | Record     |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1920    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | “Champions of the East” (self-proclaimed)     |            |
| 1923-24 | Santa Clara Leopards           | Cuban Winter League                           | 36-11 .766 |
| 1924    | Santa Clara Leopards           | Gran Premio-Special Season                    | 13-12 .520 |
| 1926    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Eastern Colored League                        | 34-20 .630 |
| 1927    | Atlantic City Bacharach Giants | Eastern Colored League                        | 54-35 .607 |
| 1929    | Baltimore Black Sox            | American Negro League                         | 49-21 .700 |
| 1931    | Providence Colored Giants      | Boston Twilight League (2 <sup>nd</sup> half) | 12-3 .800  |

## Pittsburgh Courier All Time Negro League All Star Team

In 1952 the Pittsburgh Courier polled thirty-one (31) former Negro League players, black sports writers, baseball officials and managers. They were asked to select an all- time Negro League All Star baseball team. Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle was selected as the First Team third baseman. Marcelle received more than twice as many votes as second place finishers Judy Johnson. Ray Dandridge was a distant third place in the voting. An interesting side note is that both Judy Johnson and Ray Dandridge are in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The panel selected the following First and Second Team all-star squads.

| First Team    |                                    | Second Team |                       |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Position      | Player                             | Position    | Player                |
| 1B            | Walter “Buck” Leonard              | 1B          | Ben Taylor            |
| 2B            | Jackie Robinson                    | 2B          | Bingo De Moss         |
| SS            | John Henry “Pop” Lloyd             | SS          | Willie Wells          |
| 3B            | <b>Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle</b> | 3B          | Judy Johnson          |
| C             | Josh Gibson                        | C           | Roy Campanella        |
| C             | Raleigh “Biz” Mackey               | C           | Bruce Petway          |
| LF            | Monte Irvin                        | LF          | Pete Hill             |
| CF            | Oscar Charleston                   | CF          | James Bell            |
| RF            | Cristobal Torriente                | RF          | Charles “Chino” Smith |
| Utility (INF) | Martin Dihigo                      | Utility     | John Beckwith         |
| Utility       | Sam Bankhead                       | Utility     | Newt Allen            |
| Utility (OF)  | Martin Dihigo                      | Utility     | Clint Thomas          |
| Pitcher       | Smokey Joe Williams                | Pitcher     | Dave Brown            |
| Pitcher       | Satchel Paige                      | Pitcher     | Dick Redding          |
| Pitcher       | Bullet Joe Rogan                   | Pitcher     | Jesse “Nip” Winters   |
| Pitcher       | John Donaldson                     | Pitcher     | Dizzy Dismukes        |
| Pitcher       | Willie Foster                      | Pitcher     | Don Newcombe          |
| Coach         | Dizzy Dismukes                     | Coach       | C.I. Taylor           |
| Coach         | Dan McClelland                     | Coach       | Dave Malarcher        |
| Manager       | Rube Foster                        | Manager     | Cumberland Posey      |

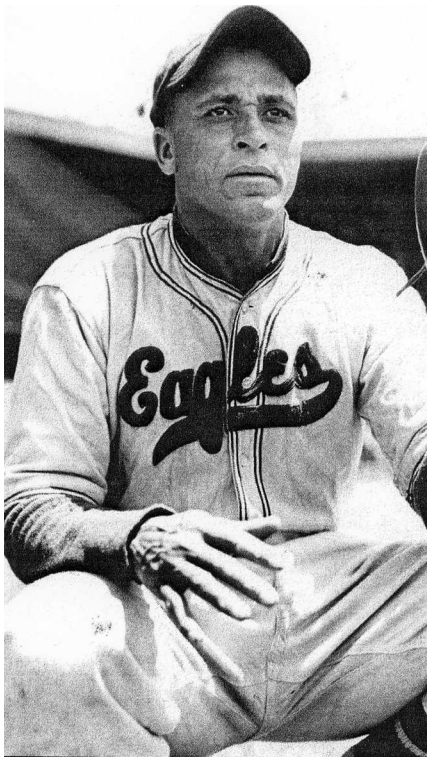
## Everett “Ziggy” Marcell – The Baseball Tradition Continues

Oliver Marcelle married Hazel Taylor of New Orleans in about 1914. They had two sons (Oliver, Jr. and Everett). Everett “Ziggy” Marcell (he dropped the “e” in the spelling of his last name) was born on September 1, 1916 in New Orleans. Ziggy and his brother grew up in New Orleans with their mother. Everett “Ziggy” Marcell stood 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighed 185 pounds during his playing days. He was an exceptional athlete who excelled at baseball, basketball and football. He played all three sports professionally.

Ziggy played nine seasons of professional baseball in the Negro Leagues for the following teams:

| Year | Team (s)                                                                                         |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1939 | Kansas City Monarchs, New York Black Yankees, Baltimore Elite Giants and Satchel Paige All Stars |
| 1940 | Homestead Grays                                                                                  |
| 1941 | Baltimore Elite Giants and New York Black Yankees                                                |
| 1942 | Chicago American Giants and Philadelphia Stars                                                   |
| 1945 | Pittsburgh Crawfords and Harlem Globetrotters                                                    |
| 1946 | Seattle Steelheads, Los Angeles White Sox and Cincinnati Crescents                               |
| 1947 | Baltimore Elite Giants                                                                           |
| 1948 | Kansas City Monarchs and Newark Eagles                                                           |
| 1949 | Harlem Globetrotters                                                                             |

Ziggy also played for the Farnham (Quebec) Pirates in the Canadian Provincial League in 1950 where he hit .272 (80 for 294) in 89 games. He also had a try-out for Lewiston of the Western International League in 1952.



**Everett Marcell**  
Newark Eagles

Ziggy Marcell’s basketball career started at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He played professional basketball for eight seasons with the Harlem Globetrotters (1941-1945), Los Angeles Red Devils (1946-1948), Bellingham Furcrest (Pacific Coast Basketball League) (1947-48), Hollywood All Stars (1948-49), Long Beach Bulldogs (1947-48) and the Iowa Colored Ghosts (1951-52). Marcelle also coached the following professional and semi-professional basketball teams: Los Angeles Sigmas (1956-57), Los Angeles 7-Up Redlegs (1958-59) and Los Angeles Vagabonds (1959-60).

In addition to playing professional baseball and basketball, “Ziggy” also played two seasons (1944 and 1946) of professional football. He and Jackie Robinson played for the Los Angeles Bulldogs in the Pacific Coast Football League in 1944. Everett also played end for the Los Angeles Bull dogs in 1946.

Everett “Ziggy” Marcell passed away from a heart attack on October 10, 1990.

### **Selected Career Highlights**

- Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle is considered the best defensive third baseman in the history of Negro League baseball.
- Marcelle compiled a .299 batting average in Negro “league” games and had a career batting average of .305 in games against all levels of competition.
- In 20 exhibition games against Major League teams, Marcelle collected 27 hits in 84 at bats for a .321 batting average.
- Compiled a career batting average of .305 in eight seasons of winter baseball in Cuba.
- Played on the 1920 Atlantic City Bacharach Giants who were the self proclaimed “Champions of the East.”
- Won the 1923-24 Cuban Winter League batting title with a .393 batting average.
- Helped lead the Santa Clara Leopards to a 1923-24 Cuban Winter League championship.
- Played for the Atlantic Bacharach Giants team that won the Eastern Colored League championship in 1926 and 1927.
- Played for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants in the 1926 and 1927 Negro League World Series.
- Part of the Baltimore Black Sox’s “Million Dollar Infield” that included: Jud Wilson (1B), Frank Warfield (2B), Dick Lundy (SS) and Oliver Marcelle (3B).
- Played on the Baltimore Black Sox team that won the American Negro League title in 1929.
- Managed the 1931 Providence Colored Giants to a 25-11 (.694) record in the Boston Twilight League. Marcelle was also one of the team’s leading hitters with a .350 batting average.
- Credited with bringing about the integration of the Denver Post Tournament in 1934.
- In 1952 selected to the Pittsburgh Courier All Time Negro League All Star Team as the “First Team” third baseman.
- In 1953 selected by John Henry “Pop” Lloyd to his All Time Negro League team.
- Inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.
- In 2006 selected as one of the 39 Negro League ball players and executives to be considered for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Marcelle fell just short in the final voting for induction.
- Elected to the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007.

## Brooklyn Royal Giants (1919)

Oliver Marcelle moved up to a “top level” black baseball when he signed with the Brooklyn Royal Giants as their starting third baseman in 1918. The team photo presented here is of the 1919 Brooklyn Royal Giants team which played an independent schedule up and down the East coast.

This picture was taken at Dexter Park which was the home field of Max Rosner’s Brooklyn Bushwicks. The Bushwicks were a regular opponent of black teams in the New York City area. Dexter Park was located in the Woodhaven neighborhood Queens (NY) just a few short blocks away from Brooklyn. It was also the home field of the Brooklyn Royal Giants when they played in the Eastern Colored League from 1923 to 1928.



## Brooklyn Royal Giants (1919)

Dexter Park  
Queens, New York

(Back row standing left to right - Harry Kenyon, **Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**, Eddie Douglas, H.D. Harris, Chester Brooks, **Louis Santop** and Mervin “Red” Ryan)

(Seated left to right – Irvin Brooks, Claude Johnson, D. “Dud” Johnson, Peter “Ed” Green and Robert Sloan)