

# **Forgotten Heroes:**

## **Roy “Red” Parnell**



**by**

**Center for Negro League Baseball Research**

**Dr. Layton Revel**

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## Est-West All Star Game (1939)

In 1939 Roy "Red" Parnell was selected to play in the East-West All Star game which was played at Comiskey Park in Chicago (IL). Roy was the East All Stars starting left fielder.

The West squad won the game by a score of 4 to 2.



### East-West All Star Game Comiskey Park

#### East All Stars 1939

(Back Row left to right - Walter "Buck" Leonard, Willie Wells, Jose M. Fernandez, Sammy Hughes, George "Tubby" Scales, George "Mule" Suttles, Pat Patterson, Josh Gibson, Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright and Roy Partlow.

Front Row left to right – Bill Byrd, Leon Day, Bill Holland, Cando Lopez, Homer "Goose" Curry and Roy "Red" Parnell.)



Roy Alexander “Red” Parnell was born in Austin, Texas on September 17, 1905.

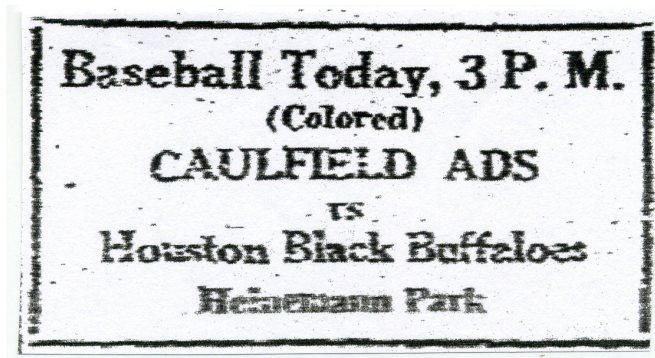
Red stood five feet ten inches tall and weighed 180 pounds during his playing career. He threw right handed and batted from the right hand side of the plate. During his career he primarily played in the outfield.

Parnell was an excellent hitter who hit for both power and average. At the plate he was known as a good bunter. Roy was also known for his speed on the base paths and smart base running. Red’s speed also proved an asset when he was playing in the outfield. Defensively, Parnell was a solid outfielder with good range and a better than average throwing arm.

His Negro League baseball career began in 1925 when he was signed to play for the Houston Black Buffaloes of the Texas Colored League and ended in 1950 when he managed the Houston Eagles of the Negro American League.

### **Negro League Career**

Roy “Red” Parnell started his professional baseball career in 1925 with the Houston Black Buffaloes of the Texas Colored League. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Dallas Morning News in 1925, the Austin Black Senators, Dallas Black Giants, Dallas-Fort Worth Black Wonders, New Orleans, Oklahoma City Black Indians and the San Antonio Black Bronchos also played in the Texas Colored League in 1925. Team won-loss records and “league” standings were not reported by the Dallas newspaper.



**Houston Black Buffaloes  
vs  
New Orleans Caulfield Ads**

New Orleans States  
New Orleans, LA  
08-29-25

Only five (5) box scores have been found for Roy playing with Houston in 1925. In these five games he collected just five hits in nineteen at bats for a .263 batting average and a .526 slugging percentage. Of his five hits four (three doubles and a triple) went for extra bases.

### **Parnell Enters the Negro Southern League**

In 1926 Roy “Red” Parnell started the season with the Austin Black Senators of the Texas Colored League. In late April or early May, Parnell signed with New Orleans of the Negro Southern League and this is when things get a little confusing from a researcher’s perspective. Local New Orleans newspaper articles that appeared in the Times-Picayune and New Orleans States identify two professional black baseball teams by the names of the New Orleans Cauldfield Ads and New Orleans Black Pelicans that reportedly played in the Negro Southern League. It seems the New Orleans Black Pelicans also may have played in the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League. Both of these New Orleans based teams appear to have had virtually the same roster.

Research indicates that Parnell spent the majority of the 1926 season with New Orleans of the Negro Southern League. The Caulfield Ads team was owned and managed by Fred Caulfield. Reportedly the Caulfield Ads only played a limited schedule because Fred Caulfield is also reported to have been the manager of the New Orleans Black Pelicans. According to newspaper accounts both the New Orleans Caulfield Ads and New Orleans Black Pelicans played in the

Negro Southern League along with the Albany Giants, Atlanta Black Crackers, Birmingham Black Barons, Chattanooga Black Lookouts, Memphis Red Sox, Montgomery Grey Sox and the Nashville Elite Giants. After not playing a “league” schedule during the 1924 and 1925 seasons, the Negro Southern League was resurrected for the 1926 season.

New Orleans played their home games at Heinemann Park during the season.



**Heinemann Park**  
New Orleans, LA

Offensively, New Orleans’ top players during the season were Harvey “Chuffie” Alexander (2B), Milt “Rick” Laurent (OF), Roy “Red” Parnell (CF) and Herman Roth (C).

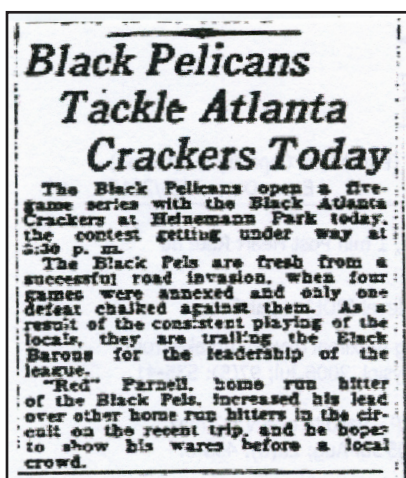
Box scores analyzed by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research have identified the following batting statistics for Red Parnell during his 1926 season with New Orleans:

| Year | Team        | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|-------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1926 | New Orleans | 42    | 144 | 38   | 56   | 10 | 9  | 11 | 19  | 7  | .389 | .813 |

Newspaper articles that appeared in the Times-Picayune (New Orleans) and Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL) in July of 1926 reported that Red Parnell had already hit 25 homeruns for the season. If this was indeed true, his homerun total had to include both “league” and “non-league” games. The hitting statistics reported above are for Negro Southern League games only. In an article that appeared in the New Orleans States on June 16<sup>th</sup>, the newspaper labeled Red Parnell as the “Black Babe Ruth” and the Times-Picayune referred to Parnell as the “Red Terror.”

One of the highlights of the 1926 season for Roy Parnell occurred on June 10<sup>th</sup> in a doubleheader against the Birmingham Black Barons. In the first game, Red took the mound and led his team to a 7-4 win. Besides outstanding pitching Roy also got two hits in four at bats. One of his hits in game one was a homerun that according to the media was the longest hit during the 1926 Negro Southern League season. In game two Parnell played centerfield and went 2 for 3 with a double and triple.





New Orleans, LA  
06-18-26

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Chicago Defender reported that Red Parnell had just hit his 23<sup>rd</sup> "league" leading homerun.

Jim "Smokey" Willis was the ace of the New Orleans' pitching staff with a record of 17-9 (.654).

New Orleans played strong baseball all season and were one of the top teams in the "league" vying for the title. According to a newspaper report that appeared in the New Orleans States on July 12<sup>th</sup> the New Orleans Black Pelicans had just won their third game in a row over the Memphis Red Sox and had taken over first place in the Negro Southern League standings. By July 16<sup>th</sup> the Black Pelicans had extended their winning streak to five straight games and then took two more games from Montgomery Grey Sox to make it seven games in a row. On July 30<sup>th</sup> New Orleans defeated Chattanooga to hold on to first place.

New Orleans maintained their hot streak until August 19<sup>th</sup> when the Memphis Red Sox tied them for the "league" lead. Both teams had a record of 17-7 at that point.

During the 1926 season it appears that the Memphis Red Sox, New Orleans Black Pelicans and Birmingham Black Barons were the top teams in the Negro Southern League. A newspaper article that appeared in a Memphis newspaper around Labor Day reported that for the second half of the season the Memphis Red Sox (27-7 - .794), New Orleans Black Pelicans (24-10 - .706) and Birmingham Black Barons (18-11 - .621) were contending for the Negro Southern League title. The same Memphis newspaper identified that Roy Parnell was leading the "league" in hitting with a .467 (28 for 60) batting average.

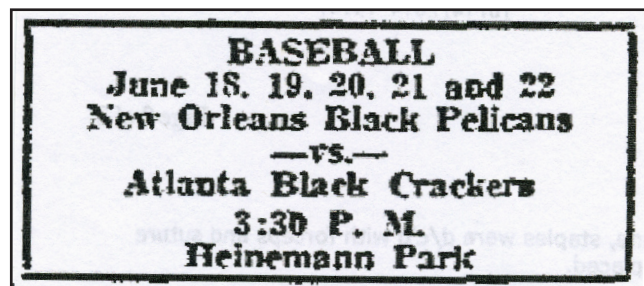
The complete standings for the 1926 Negro Southern League were as follows:

#### Negro Southern League (1926)

##### Standings - First Half of 1926 Season

|                                                   | Games     | Record       | Pct.        |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Birmingham Black Barons                           | 27        | 21-6         | .778        |
| Albany Giants                                     | 32        | 19-13        | .594        |
| <b>New Orleans Black Pelicans (Caulfield Ads)</b> | <b>34</b> | <b>19-15</b> | <b>.559</b> |
| Memphis Red Sox                                   | 33        | 17-16        | .515        |
| Nashville Elite Giants                            | 26        | 11-15        | .423        |
| Montgomery Grey Sox                               | 28        | 11-17        | .393        |
| Atlanta Black Crackers (Cubs)                     | 27        | 10-17        | .370        |
| Chattanooga White Sox                             | 29        | 10-19        | .345        |

(First half of Negro Southern League season standings as reported in the Chicago Defender on 07-03-26.)



New Orleans States  
New Orleans, LA  
06-18-26

## Standings - Second Half of 1926 Season

|                            | Games | Record | Pct. |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Memphis Red Sox            | 34    | 27-7   | .794 |
| New Orleans Black Pelicans | 34    | 24-10  | .729 |
| Birmingham Black Barons    | 29    | 18-11  | .621 |
| Albany Giants              | 34    | 17-17  | .500 |
| Chattanooga Black Lookouts | 35    | 16-19  | .457 |
| Nashville Elite Giants     | 36    | 15-21  | .417 |
| Montgomery Grey Sox        | 34    | 11-23  | .324 |
| Atlanta Black Crackers     | 34    | 7-27   | .206 |

At the end of the 1926 season Roy Parnell also reportedly played several games with the Birmingham Black Barons who also played in the Negro Southern League. This most likely occurred when the Birmingham Black Barons (winners of the first half of the season) played the Memphis Red Sox (winners of the second half of the season). Birmingham beat Memphis in a Play-Off Series five games to two (three games ended in a tie) for the Negro Southern League title.

### Red Parnell Joins Birmingham

Roy Parnell played the entire 1927 baseball season with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro National League. The Black Barons were managed by Reuben Jones and they played their home games at Rickwood Field in Birmingham.

Parnell led the Black Barons in hitting for the season with a batting average of .430 and a slugging percentage of .658 during the regular season. In seventy-nine (79) games during the regular 1927 season, Roy Parnell compiled the following batting statistics:

| Year | Team       | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1927 | Birmingham | 79    | 298 | 74   | 128  | 23 | 9  | 9  | 39  | 21 | .430 | .658 |

**THE MONARCHS DROP A PAIR.**

Five Straight Games Are Lost to Birmingham Black Barons.

Birmingham, Ala., June 9.—The Kansas City Monarchs closed their southern invasion at Rickwood field here today by dropping both ends of a twin bill to the Birmingham Black Barons, both by 3-point margins. The scores were 5 to 7 and 4 to 2. These were the fourth and fifth straight Alabama victories over the Kansas City team. The score:

| MONARCHS      |           |          |           |          |          | BIRMINGHAM     |           |          |           |           |          |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| AB            | R         | H        | P         | O        | A        | AB             | R         | H        | P         | O         | A        |
| Hawkins, 3b   | 4         | 1        | 5         | 10       | 1        | McAllister, 1b | 5         | 1        | 1         | 7         | 1        |
| McBride, cf   | 3         | 1        | 0         | 5        | 0        | Thompson, cf   | 5         | 2        | 3         | 6         | 0        |
| Allen, c      | 4         | 1        | 1         | 2        | 3        | Parnell, rf    | 4         | 2        | 2         | 3         | 0        |
| Joseph, 3b    | 4         | 0        | 1         | 2        | 1        | Jones, lf      | 3         | 2        | 2         | 3         | 0        |
| McNair, lf    | 4         | 2        | 1         | 2        | 0        | Meredith, 2b   | 3         | 1        | 1         | 3         | 0        |
| Johnson, rf   | 4         | 1        | 2         | 2        | 0        | Williams, c    | 4         | 0        | 2         | 2         | 0        |
| Orange, 2b    | 4         | 1        | 2         | 1        | 3        | Hamilton, ss   | 4         | 0        | 2         | 1         | 3        |
| Wheat, 1b     | 4         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 0        | Odum, 3b       | 4         | 1        | 1         | 1         | 3        |
| Mitchell, p   | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1        | Streeter, p    | 4         | 0        | 1         | 1         | 1        |
| Bell, p       | 1         | 0        | 1         | 3        | 0        |                |           |          |           |           |          |
| Bogan         | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        |                |           |          |           |           |          |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Totals</b>  | <b>36</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>8</b> |

Drop—Monarchs 1 (Allen). Birmingham 3 (Odum, Hamilton, Meredith).  
Bogan batted for Hawkins in ninth.  
The score by innings:  
Monarchs ..... 3 0 0 0 0 0 4 0-7  
Birmingham ..... 0 1 0 1 3 1 3 0 x-9  
The summary: Two-base hits—Allen, Orange, Jones and Hamilton. Three-base hits—Williams, Streeter. Home run—Parnell. Sacrifices—Allen, Meredith. Left on bases—Kansas City 1, Birmingham 3. Double plays—Hawkins to Joseph, Mitchell to Orange to Hawkins. Strike outs—Streeter 1, Bases on balls—Off Mitchell 1, off Streeter 1. Losing pitcher—Mitchell. Umpires—Montgomery and King.

Other top hitters on the 1927 Black Barons team were Poindexter Williams (.370), Reuben Jones (.308), George McAllister (.289), Harvey “Chuffie” Alexander (.286) and Ruby Miller (.281).

Harry Salmon (16-6) was the ace of the Birmingham’s pitching staff. Sam Streeter (14-12), Roy Poindexter (10-12) and the legendary Satchel Paige (8-4) rounded out the starting rotation for the Black Barons. Other pitchers on the 1927 Birmingham pitching staff during the season were Columbus Vance (3-0), Nelson Dean (2-0), Bill Gatewood (1-2) and Fred Daniels (1-4). Red Parnell also pitched in relief in several games during the season.

The Birmingham Black Barons conducted their spring training in Gadsden, AL. After the completion of spring training Reuben Jones had high hopes for the team during their upcoming Negro National League season. An article that appeared in the Chicago Defender on April 16<sup>th</sup> of 1927 touted the Birmingham Black Barons as “a first division ball club.”

### Parnell Goes 2 for 4 w/Homerun

Kansas City Times

Kansas City, MO

06-10-27



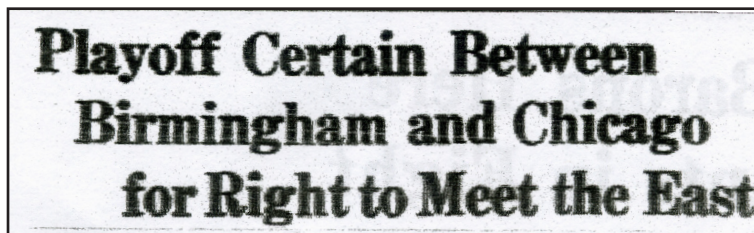
The strength of their line-up was the outfield of Sandy Thompson, Roy Parnell and Reuben Jones. Birmingham was considered to have the best outfield in black baseball in 1927.

Behind solid hitting especially from Red Parnell who led the Negro National League in hitting during the season and consistent pitching, Birmingham played outstanding baseball the entire 1927 season. On May 5<sup>th</sup> they were in third place in the Negro National League standings with a record 13-9 (.591) right behind the Kansas City Monarchs (13-5) and the Chicago American Giants (14-6). The highlight of the first half of the season for Birmingham was taking eight (8) straight games from the Memphis Red Sox and five (5) games in a row from the Kansas City Monarchs.

The Black Barons started the second half of the season on a hot streak. By August 6<sup>th</sup> they were in first place in the Negro National League standings with a record of 11-3 (.786). A doubleheader win over the Cuban Stars in mid September helped the Black Barons clinch the “league” title for the second half of the 1927 Negro National League season. They finished with a record of 55-43 (.561) and were fourth place in the final Negro National League standings. A complete listing of the final 1927 Negro National League standings is as follows:

#### Negro National League (1927)

|                         | Games | Record | Pct. | Place           |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|------|-----------------|
| Chicago American Giants | 93    | 63-30  | .677 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Kansas City Monarchs    | 83    | 54-29  | .651 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| St. Louis Stars         | 101   | 62-39  | .614 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Birmingham Black Barons | 98    | 55-43  | .561 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Detroit Stars           | 99    | 53-46  | .535 | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cleveland Hornets       | 53    | 16-37  | .302 | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Cuban Stars (West)      | 61    | 18-43  | .295 | 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Memphis Red Sox         | 100   | 27-73  | .270 | 8 <sup>th</sup> |



**Birmingham Black Barons  
vs  
Chicago American Giants**

Chicago Defender  
Chicago, IL  
09-03-27

#### Birmingham Plays for Negro National League Championship

The Chicago American Giants won the first half of the Negro National League season and the Birmingham Black Barons behind the play of Roy “Red” Parnell (outfield) and Satchel Paige (pitcher) came on strong to win the second half of the season. By winning the second half of the season, they met the Chicago American Giants who had won the first half in a play-off series.

The Chicago American Giants were led by the hitting of Walter “Steel Arm” Davis (.385), Pythian Russ (.350), Nat Rogers (.342) and Larry Brown (.316). The American Giants pitching staff included Bill Foster (21-3), Webster McDonald (10-5) and Willie Powell (9-4). Dave Malarcher managed the Chicago American Giants.

Game one of the Play-Off Series was played in Birmingham on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Bill Foster the ace of the Chicago pitching staff pitched a five hit shutout for a 5-0 victory. In game two Chicago scored six runs in the top of the eighth inning to secure a 10-5 win. Steel Arm Davis and Pythian Russ both hit homeruns in game two.

| CHICAGO       | BIRMINGHAM     |
|---------------|----------------|
| Malarcher, 3b | McAllister, 1b |
| Davis, cf     | Thompson, cf   |
| Russ, ss      | Parnell, lf    |
| Brown, c      | P. Williams, c |
| Sweatt, 1b    | Meredith, 2b   |
| Rogers, lf    | Zomphier, 3b   |
| Williams, 2b  | Owens, ss      |
| Miller, rf    | Gurley, rf     |
| Foster, p     | Salmon, p      |
| Harney, p     | Satchel, p     |
| Powell, p     | Page, p        |
| Curry, p      | Poindexter, p  |
| McDonald, p   | Streeter, p    |

Game three was played in Chicago on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Bill Foster posted his second win of the series with a 6-4 victory. Willie Powell (Chicago) pitched game four and closed out the series with a 6-2 win. The American Giants were led by the hitting of Nat Rogers (.538), Steel Arm Davis (.438), Jim Brown (.438), Dave Malarcher (.333) and Stanford Jackson (.333). Bill Foster and Willie Powell each picked up two victories in the series.

The Black Barons hitters were totally shut down in the series. Birmingham hitters went 18 for 98 for a .183 team batting average. Red Parnell who was the leading hitter in the Negro National League with a .430 batting average during the regular season could only manage five hits in twenty-one plate appearances for a meager .238 batting average for the series. This dropped his season batting average thirteen points to .417.

#### Birmingham vs Chicago

##### Starting Line-Ups

Chicago Defender

09-02-27

If weak hitting wasn't bad enough, Birmingham pitchers couldn't contain the Chicago American Giants hitters. The Chicago American Giants hitters went 39 for 120 for a .325 team batting average for the series. The Chicago American Giants defeated the Birmingham Black Barons by winning four straight games to none for Birmingham to win the Negro National League championship. A game summary of the series is as follows:

| Game | Location   | Date                  | Winning Team | Score | Winning Pitcher | Losing Pitcher |
|------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1    | Birmingham | Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago      | 5-0   | Bill Foster     | Sam Streeter   |
| 2    | Birmingham | Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> | Chicago      | 10-5  | Willie Powell   | Harry Salmon   |
| 3    | Chicago    | Sept 25 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago      | 6-4   | Bill Foster     | Bob Poindexter |
| 4    | Chicago    | Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> | Chicago      | 6-2   | Willie Powell   | Sam Streeter   |

(Note- According to research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark there was a fifth game played in the series.)

Negro League National League Champion (1927) – Chicago American Giants

**American Giants Cop Playoff  
From Birmingham Barons  
by Winning, 6 to 4 and 6 to 2**

Chicago Defender

Chicago, IL

10-01-27



### Parnell Returns to the Black Barons

Parnell returned to the Birmingham Black Barons for the 1928 season. The Black Barons started their season with spring training at Fort Benning (GA). On March 20<sup>th</sup> seven members of the team who had spent the winter in Birmingham left the city for their trip to Fort Benning. Among this group of seven players were Harry Salmon, Sam Streeter, Geechie Meredith, Sandy Thompson and Poindexter Williams. The other members of the 1927 team including Roy Parnell and hopeful new recruits joined the team in Georgia. Spring training was extremely important because Birmingham management had to whittle their final roster down to fourteen (14) players. When spring training ended, Roy Parnell was the team's starting left fielder and Black Barons' management was counting on him to be the team's leading hitter.

The Birmingham Black Barons were owned by R.T. Jackson and initially managed by Poindexter Williams (4-10) who after a slow start was replaced by Charles Wesley (42-41). The Black Barons shared Rickwood Field as their home field with the "white" Birmingham Barons of the Southern League during the season.



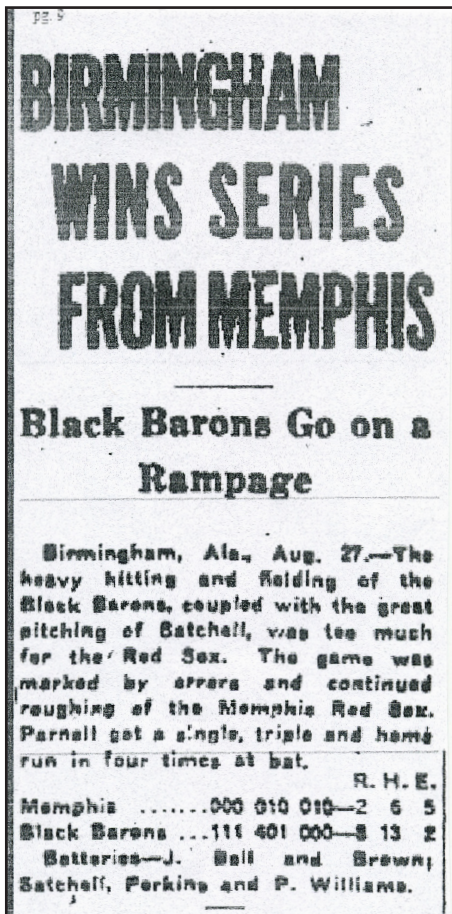
**Rickwood Field**  
Birmingham, AL

Red led the Black Barons in hitting with the following statistics for the 1927 season.

| Year | Team       | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1928 | Birmingham | 78    | 294 | 44   | 94   | 21 | 7  | 8  | 45  | 9  | .320 | .520 |

Rueben Jones (.312), Geechie Meredith (.303), Ray Shepard (.283) and George McAllister (.278) also contributed offensively for Birmingham in 1927.

Satchel Paige (13-4), Harry Salmon (11-12), J. Burdine (10-8), Nelson Dean (5-15) and Roy Poindexter (5-9) anchored the pitching staff for Birmingham in 1928. William Nash (5-7), Sam Streeter (4-3), Owen Smaulding (2-3), Jim Willis (2-6) and Jim Jeffries (1-4) also pitched for the Black Barons during the season.



The Birmingham Black Barons opened their season at home on April 19<sup>th</sup> with a three game series against the Fort Benning 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry. After these “non-league” games, the Black Barons left to travel to St. Louis for their opening game of the Negro National League season. When the Birmingham Black Barons played the St. Louis Stars, Red Parnell was Birmingham’s starting left fielder and batted clean-up. Unfortunately the Black Barons dropped three straight to St. Louis. The next stop for Birmingham was Chicago to take on the Chicago American Giants. The Black Barons lost four of the five games the two teams played against each other. The losses had nothing to do with Red’s hitting because he went 8 for 16 during the series with Chicago. After going one for eight to start the season the Birmingham Black Barons settled down and played .500 baseball the rest of the season. By June 10<sup>th</sup> the Birmingham Black Barons were 19-24 (.442) and were in sixth place in the eight team Negro National League.

The highlight of the 1928 season for the Black Barons was a no hitter pitched by Robert Poindexter against the Chicago American Giants on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Birmingham won the game by a score of 4-0 behind the pitching of Poindexter and the hitting of Red Parnell.

The Birmingham Black Barons finished the 1928 Negro National League season with a disappointing won-loss record of 46-51 (.474).

**Parnell Goes 3 for 4 w/ Triple and Homerun**  
Chicago Defender  
 09-01-28

A complete listing of the final 1928 Negro National League findings is as follows:

#### Negro National League (1928)

|                                | Games     | Record       | Pct.        | Place                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| St. Louis Stars                | 92        | 66-26        | .717        | 1 <sup>st</sup>       |
| Kansas City Monarchs           | 81        | 50-31        | .617        | 2 <sup>nd</sup>       |
| Detroit Stars                  | 91        | 54-37        | .593        | 3 <sup>rd</sup>       |
| Chicago American Giants        | 91        | 54-37        | .593        | 4 <sup>th</sup>       |
| <b>Birmingham Black Barons</b> | <b>98</b> | <b>44-54</b> | <b>.449</b> | <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> |
| Memphis Red Sox                | 78        | 30-48        | .385        | 6 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Cleveland Tigers               | 72        | 19-53        | .264        | 7 <sup>th</sup>       |
| Cuban Stars (West)             | 49        | 12-37        | .245        | 8 <sup>th</sup>       |

The St. Louis Stars (winners of the first half of the season) defeated the Chicago American Giants (winners of the second half of the season) in a Play-Off Series by winning five games to four for Chicago to win the Negro National League title. There was no Negro League World Series.



## Parnell Returns to Houston

Prior to the start of the 1929 season, Red Parnell returned to Houston as the player/manager of the Houston Black Buffaloes who played in the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League. During the 1929 season the Dallas Black Giants, Fort Worth Black Panthers, Oklahoma City Black Indians, Shreveport Black Sports, Tulsa Black Oilers and Wichita Falls also played in the "league."

Houston opened the season playing their home games at Buffalo Stadium. When attendance started to dwindle they relocated to West End Park which was located in the city's Fourth Ward.



**Buffalo Stadium**  
Houston, TX

Behind the hitting of Red Parnell Houston easily won the first half of the season. When the second half of the season got underway, the Black Buffaloes were challenged by the Tulsa Black Oilers. Parnell's team responded to the challenge and when the regular season ended in September the Houston Black Buffaloes had clinched the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League championship title. On August 30<sup>th</sup> the Beaumont Journal of Beaumont (TX) reported that the Houston Black Buffaloes had won 67 games during the regular season and had only lost 8 games.

## Houston Plays Kansas City in a Championship Series



With the success of the 1929 season, Quincy Gilmore who was the President of the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League used his connections with the Kansas City Monarchs to set-up a "World's Colored Championship" between the Houston Black Buffaloes and the Kansas City Monarchs. Kansas City was a formidable opponent. They had easily won the Negro National League title with an impressive won-loss record of 62-17 (.785). The seven game series got underway on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Game one was played at West End Park in Houston. Thousands of fans crowded into the Houston ball park to witness an incredible slugfest. Parnell's Houston Black Buffaloes scored twelve (12) runs on twenty base (20) hits. Unfortunately, the Monarchs scored fifteen (15) runs on twenty-seven (27) hits. Game two was significantly less exciting. Kansas City squeezed by Houston by a score of 3-2. Kansas City also won the next two games by the scores of 6-1 and 10-1.

Beaumont Journal  
08-30-29





#### Houston vs Kansas City

Houston Chronicle

Houston, TX

04-05-30

In late October of 1929 the Houston Black Buffaloes played a series against the San Luis Cubans who were reportedly the "Champions of Mexico." According to the Hispanic newspaper Prensa of San Antonio (TX) the San Luis club had not lost a series the entire season. The results of the series between Houston and San Luis are unclear.

#### Black Buffaloes Repeat as Champions

Roy Parnell returned to the Houston Black Buffaloes as the team's player/manager for the 1930 season. The Houston Black Buffaloes were owned by J.B. Grigsby who also held the position of club President. They played in the newly formed Texas-Louisiana League. The Dallas Black Giants, New Orleans Black Pelicans, Port Arthur Black San Crabs, San Antonio Black Indians and Waco Black Cubs also played in the "league" during the 1930 season.

Red Parnell was Houston's leading hitter during the season and "Speedball" Mc Henry was the ace of the pitching staff.

Parnell's Black Buffaloes opened their "league" season on April 19<sup>th</sup> at West End Park with a 4-0 win over the New Orleans Black Pelicans. Houston took two of the three games played in the series with New Orleans. The pitching highlight of the 1930 season for the Black Buffaloes occurred in late April when "Speedball" McHenry won both ends of a double header against the Waco Black Cubs. McHenry defeated the Black Cubs 12-0 in the first game and then pitched his second straight shutout in the second game when he beat Waco by a score of 8-0. The Houston Black Buffaloes started the season on a hot streak by winning ten of their first twelve games.

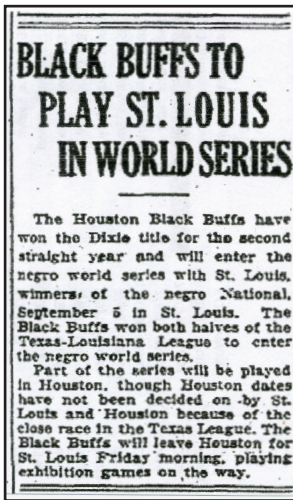
The Houston Black Buffaloes easily won the first half of the Texas-Louisiana 1930 season. On July 12, 1930 the Chicago Defender published the following standings for the Texas-Louisiana League:

#### Texas-Louisiana League (1930)

| Team                         | Games | Record | Pct. |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Houston Black Buffaloes      | 42    | 30-12  | .715 |
| San Antonio Black Indians    | 24    | 16-8   | .665 |
| New Orleans Black Pelicans   | 42    | 26-16  | .619 |
| Port Arthur Black Sand Crabs | 21    | 10-11  | .480 |
| Waco Black Cubs              | 20    | 8-12   | .400 |
| Dallas Black Giants          | 14    | 4-10   | .290 |

The second half of the 1930 Texas-Louisiana League season proved to be much tougher for Parnell's Black Buffaloes team. The primary reason was that the San Luis Cubans joined the "league" for the second half of the season. In addition San Antonio and New Orleans had made significant roster changes to improve their teams. On July 30<sup>th</sup> the New Orleans Black Pelicans, San Antonio Black Indians and San Luis Cubans were all three tied for first place. Houston was two games back. Houston finished the season strong. A three game sweep of the San Antonio Black Indians by the scores of 7-5, 12-0 and 7-0 put Houston back in first place on August 18<sup>th</sup>. When the season ended in August, Houston was still leading the "league" and Red Parnell had won his second league championship title in a row. The Houston Black Buffaloes were also considered the Negro Dixie Series winners during the 1930 season.

## Black Buffaloes Play Two Championship Series



After the regular 1930 season the Houston Black Buffaloes faced off against the St. Louis Stars and then the Chicago American Giants in what were billed as “championship series.”

On September 8<sup>th</sup> the Houston Black Buffaloes (champions of the Texas-Louisiana League) played the St. Louis Stars (champions of the Negro National League) in what was promoted in the Houston Chronicle as the “Negro World Series.” St. Louis entered the series with an impressive won-loss record of 66-22 (.750) for the Negro National League season. In late August the Black Buffaloes left for St. Louis and according to a newspaper report they played several exhibition games on their way to St. Louis. Two box scores have been found for this series and St. Louis won both games by the scores of 1-0 and 6-5. It is still unclear how many games were played in the “Negro World Series” and even who won the title.

### Houston Chronicle 08-28-30

On September 13<sup>th</sup> Houston started play in their second “championship series” during the 1930 season. To bolster their pitching staff Parnell signed “Black Diamond” Pipkin to the Black Buffaloes roster. Houston’s opponent for this series was the Chicago American Giants who also played in the Negro National League. The idea of the American Giants playing in the series was ironic because they had finished in fifth place in the final “league” standings with a losing record of 47-53 (.470).

The Chicago American Giants won the first game of the Negro World Series in 11 innings by a score of 9-8. Houston came back to win the next two games. When the series moved to Houston for the final three games to be played at Buffalo Stadium, Black Diamond Pipkin took the ball for the Black Buffaloes for game five. Pipkin allowed the hard hitting American Giants just one hit and won the game by a score of 4 to 1. Going into the seventh game of the series the two teams were tied three wins each. Before a large crowd at Buffalo Stadium the American Giants took the final game of the series by a score of 6-2 in twelve innings and claimed the “title.”



### Houston vs Chicago

Houston Chronicle  
Houston, TX  
09-14-30

A summary of the seven game series between the Houston Black Buffaloes and the Chicago American Giants is as follows:

| Game | Site        | Date                   | Score | Winning Team | Winning Pitcher      |
|------|-------------|------------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1    | Chicago, IL | Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> | 9-8   | Chicago      | Webster McDonald     |
| 2    | Chicago, IL | Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup> | 3-2   | Houston      | Black Diamond Pipkin |
| 3    | Chicago, IL | Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> | 10-4  | Houston      | Kirkwood             |
| 4    | Chicago, IL | -                      | -     | Chicago      | -                    |
| 5    | Houston, TX | Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup> | 4-1   | Houston      | Black Diamond Pipkin |
| 6    | Houston, TX | Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup> | 2-0   | Chicago      | Hayes                |
| 7    | Houston, TX | Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 6-2   | Chicago      | -                    |



### Parnell Returns to Houston

Red Parnell started the 1931 season with the Houston Black Buffaloes of the Texas-Louisiana League. Houston conducted its spring training at Monarch Park in Houston. The Black Buffaloes started their preseason on a positive note with three straight wins over Prairie View College on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Houston Black Buffaloes started their regular season playing their home games at both Monarch Park and Buffalo Stadium. In mid-June team owner E.R. Grigsby leased West End Park for the remainder of the season.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> the Afro American newspaper reported that the Black Buffaloes were in second place in the "league" standings with a record of 22-9 (.710). The Monroe Monarchs were leading the "league" with a record of 29-8 (.784) in July and were crowned the Texas-Louisiana League champions at the end of the regular season. A complete listing for the first half standings for the Texas-Louisiana League as published in the Afro American is as follows:

#### Texas-Louisiana League (1931)

| Team                       | Games | Record | Pct. |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Monroe Monarchs            | 38    | 29-8   | .784 |
| Houston Black Buffaloes    | 31    | 22-9   | .710 |
| Galveston Black Buccaneers | 38    | 26-12  | .684 |
| Shreveport Black Sports    | 30    | 15-15  | .500 |
| San Antonio Black Indians  | 32    | 15-17  | .467 |
| Fort Worth Black Cats      | 30    | 10-20  | .333 |
| New Orleans Black Pelicans | 30    | 9-21   | .300 |
| Dallas Black Giants        | 20    | 5-15   | .250 |

When the Houston Black Buffaloes were eliminated from contention for the Texas-Louisiana title their season was over. With Houston's season over, Monroe Monarchs management signed Roy Parnell to bolster their roster for the Negro Dixie Series against the Nashville Elite Giants of the Negro Southern League.

### Red Parnell Goes to Monroe



Roy Parnell started the 1932 season as the player/manager of the Houston Black Buffaloes. On April 9<sup>th</sup> Red Parnell took his team to Casino Park in Monroe (LA) to play the Monroe Monarchs. Elbert Williams of the Monarchs pitched a two hitter to give Monroe a 1-0 victory. The following weekend the Monroe Monarchs traveled to Houston to play the Black Buffaloes. Parnell's Black Buffaloes took the first game of the doubleheader by a score of 4-3. In the second game Red Parnell connected for three triples that led to a 10-5 win for Houston. The double header loss to Houston confirmed what Fred Stovall who owned the Monroe Monarchs already suspected. If he wanted to contend for the Negro Southern League title, he needed to upgrade his line-up. After evaluating the needs of his team and players that he could sign, he determined that Roy "Red" Parnell of the Houston Black Buffaloes was the key to his team's success for the upcoming Negro Southern League season. On April 19<sup>th</sup> Stovall acquired Harvey "Chuffie" Alexander (1B) and Red Parnell (OF) from Houston.

#### Houston Chronicle

02-28-32

Red played in his first Negro Southern League game as a Monroe Monarch on April 30<sup>th</sup> against the Memphis Red Sox. Parnell went 3 for 4 in his first game for Monroe.

The Monroe Monarchs fielded a very strong hitting team in 1932. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Pittsburgh Courier on September 3<sup>rd</sup> the Monroe Monarchs featured a starting line-up that included the following players:

| Position | Player                     | Average | Position | Player             | Average |
|----------|----------------------------|---------|----------|--------------------|---------|
| 1B       | Harvey "Chuffie" Alexander | .312    | RF       | Zollie Wright      | .336    |
| 2B       | Augustus Saunders          | .314    | CF       | Roy "Red" Parnell  | .384    |
| SS       | Leroy Morney               | .363    | LF       | W.C. "Hoss" Walker | .306    |
| 3B       | Porter Dallas              | .330    |          |                    |         |
| C        | Harry Elsie                | .306    | Reserve  | Sam Harris         | .300    |



**Monroe Monarchs**  
(Roy "Red" Parnell – kneeling second from left)

Most likely the above statistics are inflated but from this researcher's perspective the Monroe Monarchs did field a very strong hitting line-up in 1932.

According to research by William J. Plott and reported in his book The Negro Southern League: A Baseball History 1920-1951, Roy "Red" Parnell had the best season of his baseball career in 1932 with the Monroe Monarchs. From primary source documentation by Plott, Parnell ended the regular season leading the "league" in the following eight (8) offensive categories: hits (58), total bases (88), runs scored (40), doubles (10), triples (10), runs batted in (23), batting average (.384) and slugging percentage (.801). These statistics were from box scores from forty-one (41) games and 151 at bats. Parnell's complete statistics in Negro Southern League games were as follows:

| Year | Team   | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1932 | Monroe | 41    | 151 | 40   | 58   | 10 | 10 | 1  | 36  | 10 | .384 | .801 |

One unusual aspect of these statistics is that Red is only credited with one homerun and he was always a strong power hitter. It is important to note that there did not seem to be a lot of homeruns hit in “official” Negro Southern League games during the 1932 season. According to newspaper reports Norman “Turkey” Stearnes, Alex Radcliff and Walter Davis tied for the “league” homerun title with a mere five (5) homeruns each. No explanation to this strange statistic can be offered.

The pitching staff for the Monroe Monarchs in 1932 was anchored by Barney Morris (14-6), Dick Matthews (14-6), Elbert Williams (12-8), Roy “Red” Parnell (8-0) and Homer “Goose” Curry (5-6). Leland Foster, Murray Gillespie, Bob Harvey, Red Murray, Ray Sheppard, Hilton Smith, Samuel “Sad Sam” Thompson and Elbert Williams also pitched for Monroe during the season.

The Monroe Monarchs were owned by drilling company owner Fred Stovall and managed by Frank Johnson. They played their home games at Casino Park in Monroe. The Monarchs opened their 1932 regular season at Crump Park in Little Rock (AR) against their hometown Greys. In a hard fought battle Monroe prevailed with a 6-1 win. The next day Red was given the game ball to pitch for the Monarchs. As always Red Parnell delivered. He held his opposing hitters to just four base hits and Monroe came away with a 6-3 win.

In mid June Roy Parnell really showed his versatility. In the first game of a four game series against Montgomery, Red was named as the starting pitcher for the Monarchs. Parnell had an excellent outing on the mound. He allowed Montgomery just six hits and pitched a 3-0 shut out. At the plate he supported his pitching effort by going 3 for 4.

When the 1932 Negro Southern League Baseball season ended both Cole’s Chicago American Giants and the Monroe Monarchs claimed that their team had won the Negro Southern League title. In the final analysis the season ended with an unresolved dispute.

#### **Negro Southern League (1932)**

##### **“Unofficial” Standings**

|                                            | <b>Games</b>                             | <b>Record</b> | <b>Pct.</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Cole’s Chicago American Giants             | 41                                       | 34-7          | .829        |
| Monroe Monarchs                            | 40                                       | 33-7          | .825        |
| Nashville Elite Giants                     | 39                                       | 24-15         | .615        |
| Montgomery Grey Sox                        | 40                                       | 22-18         | .550        |
| Memphis Red Sox                            | 46                                       | 24-22         | .522        |
| Little Rock Black Travelers (Grays)        | 6                                        | 3-3           | .500        |
| Louisville Black Caps                      | 30                                       | 13-17         | .433        |
| Indianapolis ABCs                          | 33                                       | 14-19         | .424        |
| Birmingham Black Barons                    | 19                                       | 8-11          | .421        |
| Atlanta Black Crackers                     | 8                                        | 1-7           | .125        |
| Cleveland Cubs                             | 5                                        | 0-5           | .000        |
| Columbus Turfs (Turf Stars)                | No records found                         |               |             |
| Lexington Hard Hitters                     | No records found                         |               |             |
| Kansas City Monarchs<br>(Associate Member) | 14                                       | 9-5           | .643        |
| ALCOA Aluminum Sluggers                    | Associate Member (second half of season) |               |             |
| Knoxville Giants                           | Associate Member (second half of season) |               |             |

#### **Negro Dixie Series (1932)**

With their claim of winning the Negro Southern League title, the Monarchs advanced to the Negro Dixie Series to play the Austin Black Senators who were the champions of the Texas Negro League. The series started on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The first three games of the series were played



in Austin, Texas. Monroe defeated Austin four games to two to win the Negro Dixie Series championship. A summary of the series is as follows:

| Game | Date                    | Site       | Winner | Score |
|------|-------------------------|------------|--------|-------|
| 1    | August 20 <sup>th</sup> | Austin, TX | Monroe | 5-2   |
| 2    | August 21 <sup>st</sup> | Austin, TX | Austin | 3-2   |
| 3    | August 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Austin, TX | Monroe | 5-4   |
| 4    | August 28 <sup>th</sup> | Monroe, LA | Austin | 4-2   |
| 5    | August 29 <sup>th</sup> | Monroe, LA | Monroe | 3-2   |
| 6    | August 30 <sup>th</sup> | Monroe, LA | Monroe | 10-0  |

The Monroe Monarchs were also considered the “Colored State Champions of Louisiana” for the 1932 season.

After defeating the Austin Black Senators, the Monroe Monarchs played a seven game “Colored World’s Championship” series against the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Monroe was thoroughly dominated by Pittsburgh. A summary of the series is as follows:

| Game | Date                   | Site           | Winner     | Score |
|------|------------------------|----------------|------------|-------|
| 1    | Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Pittsburgh, PA | Pittsburgh | 7-3   |
| 2    | Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Pittsburgh, PA | Monroe     | 2-1   |
| 3    | Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Pittsburgh, PA | Pittsburgh | 7-2   |
| 4    | Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Pittsburgh, PA | Pittsburgh | 9-2   |
| 5    | Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> | Monroe, LA     | Tie        | 6-6   |
| 6    | Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> | Monroe, LA     | Pittsburgh | 11-4  |
| 7    | Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Monroe, LA     | Pittsburgh | 9-6   |

After the “Colored World’s Championship” series the Monroe Monarchs and Pittsburgh Crawfords played an exhibition game in New Orleans. No box score has currently been found for this game. The Monroe Monarchs ended the season with four exhibition games against the Lincoln Giants and three exhibition games against the Little Rock Greys.

**Crescent Stars Defeat  
Chicago Nine, 4 To 2**

The Crescent Stars of the Negro Southern league turned in a brilliant performance to defeat the Chicago Americans of the National league by a score of 4 to 2 at the Crescent park yesterday.

Broguille of the Stars let the National leaguers down with seven scattered hits while his mates were pounding Powell for four runs.

The teams resume their three-game series this afternoon at 3 p. m. Special reservations have been made for white fans.

**The box score:**

| Chicago      |           | Crescent Stars |           |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
|              | abrhos    |                | abrhos    |
| Stearns, cf  | 4 1 1 3 0 | O'Brant, sc    | 5 0 2 3 3 |
| Radloff, 3b  | 2 1 2 1 0 | Perrell, cf    | 4 2 2 2 0 |
| Rodgers, rf  | 4 0 1 0 0 | Dzernoff, lf   | 3 0 0 2 1 |
| Davis, 2f    | 4 0 0 2 0 | Slus, 3b       | 3 0 0 2 2 |
| Battles, 1b  | 3 0 0 7 7 | Fahner, rf     | 3 0 0 0 0 |
| Wells, as    | 3 0 1 0 4 | Collins, cf    | 4 0 0 5 5 |
| Grisball, 2b | 3 0 0 1 0 | Albers, 1b     | 4 0 0 1 0 |
| Arnold, 3b   | 3 0 1 2 0 | Anderson, c    | 3 0 1 0 0 |
| Giffard, p   | 3 0 0 2 3 | Bequille, p    | 3 1 2 4 3 |
| V. Powell, p | x x x 1 2 |                |           |
| K. Powell, p | x x x 0 2 |                |           |

|        |    |   |   |    |    |
|--------|----|---|---|----|----|
| Totals | 32 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 12 |
|--------|----|---|---|----|----|

Score by innings:  
Chicago 000 000 020-2

|                                                                                                                                                                                           |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Chicago .....                                                                                                                                                                             | 000 000 020-2 |
| Crescent Stars .....                                                                                                                                                                      | 100 300 000-4 |
| Summary: Two-base hits—Radcliff. Errors—Radcliff. W. Powell O'Bryant. Alexander. Sacrifice hits—Farnell. Double plays—Collins to O'Bryant. Roms batted in O'Bryant. Earned runs—Crescent. |               |

According to newspaper reports, the final won-loss record for the 1932 season of the Monroe Monarchs against all levels of competition was 60-30-1 (.667)

## Parnell Signs with New Orleans

Before the start of the 1933 Negro Southern League season, Roy Parnell was signed as the player/manager for the New Orleans Crescent Stars. During the season New Orleans played their home games at both Crescent Park (located at Dogenots and New Orleans Streets) and Heineman Park. The Crescent Stars played in the Negro Southern League during the 1933 season.

The leading players for the 1933 New Orleans Crescent Stars were Harry Else (C), Milt Laurent (OF), Roy Parnell (OF), Bobby Roth (C), Percy Wilson (3B) and Zollie Wright (OF). New Orleans had an excellent pitching staff during the 1933 season that included Dickie Matthews, Barney Morris, “Red” Broguille, Thomas “Big Train” Parker, Robert “Black Diamond” Pipkin, Hilton Smith and Elbert Williams.

## Parnell Goes 2 for 4

## New Orleans Item

04-02-33

The New Orleans Crescent Stars started the season on a hot streak and according to the Times-Picayune they were leading the Negro Southern League by four games after winning a pair of games from the powerful Memphis Red Sox. New Orleans beat Memphis by the scores of 5-3 and 3-1. The Crescent Stars were still leading the “league” by four games on June 4<sup>th</sup> when they defeated the Little Rock Stars by the score of 10-2. Then on June 6<sup>th</sup> they increased their lead to five games by demolishing the Little Rock Stars by a score of 15-5.

The Memphis Red Sox also played strong baseball during the first half of the 1933 Negro Southern League season. In the summer of 1933 the Chicago Defender reported the following “official” standings for the Negro Southern League:

#### Negro Southern League (1933)

| Team                       | Games | Record | Pct. | Place           |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------|-----------------|
| Memphis Red Sox            | 42    | 32-10  | .761 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Algiers Giants             | 42    | 23-19  | .560 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| New Orleans Crescent Stars | 43    | 24-19  | .558 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Shreveport Cubs            | 36    | 19-17  | .527 | 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| Little Rock Stars          | 39    | 20-19  | .513 | 5 <sup>th</sup> |
| Alexandria Lincoln Giants  | 39    | 18-21  | .461 | 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| Montgomery Grey Sox        | 9     | 4-5    | .445 | 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jackson Senators (Giants)  | 33    | 13-20  | .303 | 8 <sup>th</sup> |

In July the New Orleans Crescent Stars played a seven game series to crown a “Colored Champion of Louisiana.” According to the New Orleans Item newspaper the winner of the series would get the chance to play the winner of the Negro National League in a “Negro World Series” at the end of the season. Crescent Park in New Orleans was selected as the site for the Louisiana “championship series.” The series was very evenly played. Alexandria won two of the first three games and New Orleans took game four by a score of 5-2 to even the series. New Orleans won the next two games to claim the title of “Colored Championship of Louisiana.”

**Crescent Stars, Black Pels to Open Series Saturday**

The fans of New Orleans will have a chance to see some of the hardest fought games played in negro baseball this year when the Crescent Stars and the Black Pelicans clash in an eight-game series starting at Lincoln park Saturday, running through Monday, and resumed the following Saturday at Crescent park. This is the semifinal series of the eliminating tournament arranged by the Negro Baseball Association in selecting a team of the South to meet the winners of the Negro National league in what is classed as the Negro World Series.

Both the Pelicans and the Stars have played good baseball this half and have eliminated all opponents. The Black Pelicans recently eliminated the strong Memphis Red Sox while the Stars were beating Birmingham. Reserve section for white fans at all games.

The New Orleans Crescent Stars played solid baseball the entire 1933 season and ended the regular season by winning the second half of the Negro Southern League. In late August the New Orleans Crescent Stars played the Houston Black Buffaloes who were the champions of the Texas Colored League to determine which team would face the Nashville Elite Giants in the Negro Dixie Series. New Orleans beat their Texas opponent in four straight games.

The Crescent Stars then faced off against the Nashville Elite Giants in the Negro Dixie Series. Parnell led his team to the Negro Dixie Series title.

In the 1933 post season the New Orleans Crescent Stars also played a “championship series” against the Chicago American Giants. Only one box score has been found for that series and Red Parnell went 1 for 3 with a walk in the game.

During the 1933 season, the New Orleans Crescent Stars were also recognized as the “Colored Champions of New Orleans” and the “Colored Champions of Louisiana.”

Besides an outstanding record during their Negro Southern League season. Red Parnell's New Orleans Crescent Stars had an amazing won-loss record in "non-league" games and during the four "championship series" they played during the 1933 season. Newspaper coverage with game scores has been found for twenty-eight (28) "non-league" games the Crescent Stars played in 1933. New Orleans had a won-loss record of 22-5-1 (.815) in these twenty-eight (28) games. Some of the top "non-league" teams Parnell's Crescent Stars beat were the Birmingham Black Barons (6 straight wins), Laurent's All Stars (3 straight wins), Alexandria Giants (record of 4-2), Chicago American Giants, Houston Black Buffaloes, Melopomene White Sox, New Orleans Black Pelicans and St. Raymond Giants. During the second half of the 1933 season the Crescent Stars played in four championship series. Their opponents were the Houston Black Buffaloes, New Orleans Black Pelicans, Nashville Elite Giants and Chicago American Giants. The New Orleans Crescent Stars compiled a record of 14-6 (.700) in their four "championship series." A summary of these series is as follows:

#### **New Orleans Crescent Stars vs New Orleans Black Pelicans**

This eight game "play-off series" against the New Orleans Black Pelicans enabled the winner to move on to play the Houston Black Buffaloes for the opportunity to possibly face the winner of the Negro National League in a "Negro World Series." The winner also claimed the title of "Colored Champions of Louisiana." The series was played at Lincoln Park and Crescent Park in late August. Parnell's Crescent Stars took five of the first seven games by the scores of 18-5, 8-7, 8-0, 2-0 and 3-0. The highlight of the series was New Orleans pitching staff that collected three shutout wins.

#### **New Orleans Crescent Stars vs Houston Black Buffaloes**

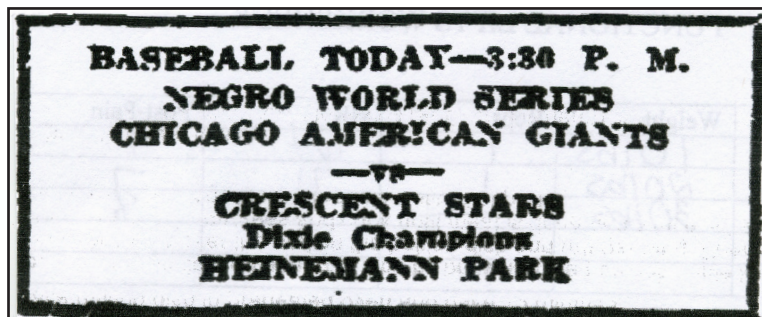
This series was scheduled for five games between the New Orleans Crescent Stars and the Houston Black Buffaloes to be played at Crescent Park in New Orleans in early September. The Crescent Stars swept their Texas opponent by the scores of 5-1, 4-2 and 2-1 to move on to the Negro Dixies Series against the Nashville Elite Giants.

#### **New Orleans Crescent Stars vs Nashville Elite Giants (Negro Dixie Series)**

According to newspaper coverage the Nashville Elite Giants were considered the champions of the Negro Southeastern League. The series was played in mid-September. The first three games of the series were played at Crescent Park before the series moved to Nashville. Parnell's team took four of the first five games to claim the title. Winning the Negro Dixie Series title meant that the New Orleans Crescent Stars would play the Chicago American Giants in what was billed as the "Negro World Series."

#### **New Orleans Crescent Stars vs Chicago American Giants (Negro World Series)**

The series began in New Orleans with games being played at both Crescent Park and Heinemann Park. The Negro World Series was played in late September and early October. The New Orleans Crescent Stars were no match for their Negro National League opponent. The Chicago American Giants took four of the first five games to claim the "Negro World Series" championship.



New Orleans States  
New Orleans, LA  
09-30-33



A summary of the “championship” series that the New Orleans Crescents played in 1933 is as follows:

| Team                       | Month Series Played | Won-Loss Record |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| New Orleans Black Pelicans | August              | 6-1             |
| Houston Black Buffaloes    | September           | 3-0             |
| Nashville Elite Giants     | September           | 4-1             |
| Chicago American Giants    | September/October   | 1-4             |

### Parnell Starts the Season in New Orleans

Roy Parnell started the 1934 season with the New Orleans Crescent Stars of the Negro Southern League as the team’s player/manager. H.D. English owned the team and Fred Caulfield served as the team’s general manager. The Crescent Stars played their home games at both Crescent Park and Heinemann Park in 1934. The teams that played in the Negro Southern League and a portion of their won-loss records were as follows:

#### Negro Southern League (1934)

|                                  | Games | Record | Pct. |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Monroe Monarchs                  | 24    | 15-9   | .625 |
| Cincinnati Tigers                | 14    | 8-6    | .571 |
| New Orleans Crescent Stars       | 15    | 8-7    | .533 |
| Memphis Red Sox                  | 20    | 10-9-1 | .526 |
| Birmingham Black Barons (Giants) | 22    | 6-16   | .273 |
| Louisville Caps (Black Sox)      | 9     | 1-8    | .111 |

Atlanta Athletics (No records found)

(Note – It is important to note that these records are definitely not complete and that there does not appear to have been a clear winner of the “league” at the end of the 1934 season.)

Lloyd “Pepper” Bassett (C), Charles Beverly (P), Lloyd “Ducky” Davenport (OF), Milt Laurent (OF), C.D. “Iron Man” Mosley (P), Roy “Red” Parnell (OF), Thomas “Big Train” Parker (P/OF), Elmo “Rookie” Remi (P), Elbert Williams (P) and Zollie Wright (SS/2B) were the top players on the New Orleans Crescent Stars during the season.

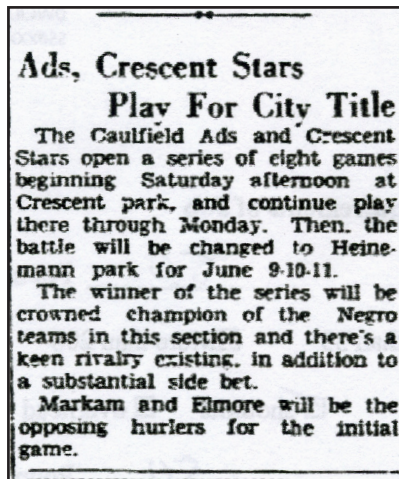
|                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Crescent Stars Win Two Games from Chicago Nine</b></p> <p>The Crescent Stars defeated the Chicago American negro Giants in a</p> | <p>doubleheader Sunday at Crescent Park 24-12 and 1-0.</p> <p>The Crescent Stars collected a total of eight home runs, two by Wright, two by “Big Train” Parker, two by “Red” Parnell and one each by Harris and Miller. The Giants hit two, both by Stearns.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### Roy Parnell Hits Two Home Runs Crescent Stars Hit 8 Homeruns in Doubleheader

New Orleans States  
04-02-34

The Crescent Stars had an excellent preseason before the start of the 1934 Negro Southern League season. The highlight of their preseason was an eight (8) game exhibition series against the Chicago American Giants who had recently defeated them in the 1933 Negro World Series. New Orleans started the series by winning a doubleheader from the World Champion Chicago American Giants. Parnell’s Crescent Stars won the doubleheader by the scores of 24-12 and 1-0.

New Orleans had eight (8) homeruns in the doubleheader. Roy Parnell, “Big Train” Parker and Zollie Wright each hit two round trippers. Moocha Harris and Miller also hit home runs for the Crescent Stars. Then the next day New Orleans defeated Chicago again, this time by a score of 7-1. During their eight game preseason series with the Chicago American Giants the New Orleans Crescent Stars, New Orleans redeemed themselves for the loss to Chicago in the Negro World Series. The Crescent Stars went 5-2-1 in the series with the American Giants.

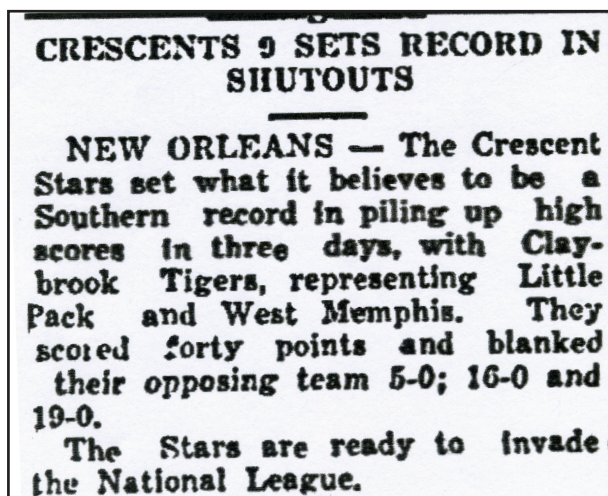


Crescent Stars vs Caulfield Ads  
New Orleans Item  
 06-01-34

New Orleans opened its regular 1934 season on April 21<sup>st</sup> against the Birmingham Black Barons. The team’s home opener was reported as a spectacular event. There was a parade, picnic, music and a special ceremony in which Red Parnell was given a car from Crescent Stars’ team management for his service to the team. The Louisiana Weekly newspaper reported that New Orleans won their home opener by a score of 8-1 and then went on to win three of their next four games that weekend.

In June the New Orleans Crescent Stars played an eight game series against the Caulfield Ads for the “Colored Championship of New Orleans” title. The Crescent Stars dominated the Ads and reeled off four straight wins by the scores of 18-4, 3-1, 4-3 and 6-1. The New Orleans Crescent Stars won the title “Colored Championship of New Orleans.”

During the 1934 season, the New Orleans Crescent Stars set what they believed was a southern professional record for black baseball when they played the Claybrook Tigers during the first week of July. In a three game series Red Parnell’s New Orleans scored 40 runs without giving up a single run to their opponent. They beat the Claybrook Tigers by the scores 5-0, 16-0 and 19-0.



New Orleans Crescent Stars Set Record  
 vs  
 Claybrook Tigers  
 40 Runs and 3 Shutouts  
Negro Star  
 Wichita, KS  
 07-06-34

Box scores for forty-seven (47) games have been found for Red Parnell’s New Orleans Crescent Stars playing during the 1934 season. New Orleans compiled a very good record of 26-17-4 (.605) in these forty-seven (47) games.

## Parnell Goes to Nashville

In late July of 1934 with the New Orleans Crescents in financial trouble and preparing for an uncertain road trip, Roy Parnell signed with the Nashville Elite Giants of the Negro National League as the team's starting left fielder. Current research has revealed that the first box score with Parnell in the starting line-up for Nashville appears on July 28<sup>th</sup> against his old team the New Orleans Crescent Stars.

The Nashville Elite Giants were owned by Tom Wilson and managed by Candy Jim Taylor. The team played their home games at Sulphur Dell in Nashville during the season.



**Sulphur Dell**  
Nashville, TN

Felton Snow (.376), Sam Bankhead (.347), Sammy Hughes (.303), Tom Parker (.298), Nish Williams (.294), Sam Bankhead, Jim West and Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright led Nashville in hitting during the season. Currently only nine (9) box scores have been found with Roy Parnell playing for Nashville in 1934. Roy went 8 for 29 for a mediocre .276 batting average in these nine games. Fortunately four of these hits were homeruns and he also had two doubles.

The 1934 Nashville Elite Giants' pitching staff and a portion of their won-loss records according to the research of Negro League historian John Holway were Andy Porter (9-6), Jim Willis (4-6), Robert Griffith (3-2), Percy Miller (3-6) and Henry Wright (1-6).

Even with a first class manager and strong hitting team, Nashville posted a losing record of 22-31-1 (.415) during the 1934 season.

For his outstanding play during the 1934 season, Roy Parnell was selected to represent the Nashville Elite Giants in the annual East-West All Star game. Red was the second leading vote getter among outfielders with 47,157 votes to first place finisher Norman "Turkey" Stearns who garnered 47,367 votes. The all-star game was played on August 26<sup>th</sup> at Comiskey Park in Chicago, IL with 30,000 fans in attendance. Parnell was named the West's starting left fielder and went 0 for 4 at the plate. The East squad took a 1-0 victory when James "Cool Papa" Bell scored the winning run.

Roy Parnell was also selected to play in the inaugural North-South All Star game. He represented the Nashville Elite Giants on the West squad. According to an article that appeared in the Pittsburgh Courier on October 6<sup>th</sup>, the game was played at Sulphur Dell Stadium in Nashville.



The highlight of the post season for the Elite Giants was a game they played as part of a doubleheader at Yankee Stadium. With approximately 25,000 fans in attendance, the Pittsburgh Crawfords won the first game by defeating the Philadelphia Stars by a score of 12-2. The Elite Giants beat the New York Cubans by a score of 4-3 in the second game.

After the regular 1934 Negro National League season had concluded play, Roy returned to New Orleans for post season play. Parnell was in the starting line-up when New Orleans played the Chicago American Giants in November. Newspaper coverage has been found for three games the two teams played against each other. New Orleans won two and lost one in these three outings.

**BASEBALL!!**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS, BLACK SENATORS**  
 —VS.—  
**CRESCENT STARS**  
 CRESCENT PARK—NEW ORLEANS AND DORGENOIS STS.  
 SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY  
 JUNE 30, JULY 1, 2, 3 and 4  
 Saturday, Monday and Tuesday games called at 4 o'clock;  
 Sunday and Wednesday Games (doubleheaders) called at 1:45  
 Saturday, kiddies free—Monday and Tuesday, ladies free.  
**ADMISSION . . . . . ADULTS, 35c; CHILDREN, 10c**  
 Chuffie Alexander is managing the Texas Senators

Louisiana Weekly  
 1934

**Detroit Elite Giants  
 Ready For Opening  
 Of Baseball Season**  
 The Detroit Gaints, representing Detroit in the Negro National League, should be one of the hardest hitting clubs in the league this year.  
 In the outfield Manager Jim Taylor has Roy Parnell, Bernie Wright and Zollie Wright, three hard hitting fly shasers. Parnell is well known to the local fans as a potent hitter. As a member of the Birmingham Black Barons, Parnell broke up many a games at the Mack Avenue arena with home runs over the left field fence.

Tribune Independent of Michigan  
 Detroit, MI  
 03-13-35

In November of 1934 Roy Parnell joined the Austin Black Senators to play a double header against the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro National League. The Austin Black Senators were the Negro Dixie Series champions and had a very successful season in 1934 with a won-loss record of 130-24-9. The Houston Chronicle advertised the doubleheader on November 10<sup>th</sup> as a “Negro World Series” because the Philadelphia Stars were billing themselves in the Texas newspapers as the Negro National League champions which obviously was not true. Austin signed several players primarily from the Black Buffaloes to bolster their roster. Besides Parnell the Black Senators also signed Chuffie Alexander, Charlie Beverly, Moocha Harris, DeWitt Owens and Chester Williams. The games were played at West End Park at Houston. According to the Houston Chronicle after the two games were played at West End Park, the two teams were to have traveled to Austin to complete the series.

#### **Red Parnell Joins Tom Wilson’s Elite Giants**

Entering the 1935 Negro National League season, Tom Wilson who owned the Elite Giants was determined to find a new home for his team. The Nashville fan base had not been financially supportive of the team during the 1935 season. After much consideration Wilson moved the team to Detroit and they became the “Detroit Elite Giants.” Unfortunately, Wilson’s stay in Detroit did not last long and the Elite Giants ended up settling in Columbus (OH) for the 1935 season.



**Columbus Elite Giants (1935)**

(Back row left to right – **Sammy Hughes**, Andy Porter, **Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright**, Jesse “Hoss” Walker, Bob Griffith, Sam Thompson, Red Wright, Tom Glover and Jim West. Front row kneeling left to right – **Bill Byrd**, Jim Willis, Leroy Morney, Paul Hardy, **James “Candy Jim” Taylor**, Zollie Wright, Felton Snow, Nish Williams and **Roy “Red” Parnell**.)

The primary reason for the Elite Giants leaving Detroit was that Wilson could not secure a lease of Hamtramck Field. Without a home field it was impossible for the team to stay in Detroit.

The 1935 Columbus Elite Giants played in the Negro National League and were managed by James “Candy Jim” Taylor. Wilson’s Columbus Elite Giants called Neil Park in Columbus as their home field for the 1935 Negro National League season.

The Elite Giants were led by the hitting of Leroy Morney (.387), Zollie Wright (.375), Sammy Hughes (.337), Roy Parnell (.333) and Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright (.293). In the twenty-six (26) games for which Red Parnell was in uniform for the Columbus Elite Giants, he put up the following numbers:

| Year Team     | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|---------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1935 Columbus | 26    | 108 | 22   | 36   | 10 | 3  | 1  | 22  | 2  | .333 | .509 |

Columbus had a strong hitting team in 1935. From the twenty-six (26) box scores that have been found, the Elite Giants posted a team batting average of .296. In addition the outfield of Zollie Wright (.375), Roy “Red” Parnell (.33) and Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright (.293) was one of the best if not the best hitting outfields in black baseball in 1935.

The pitching staff for the Elite Giants and their won-loss records in “league” games in 1935 were Jim Willis (5-1), Andy Porter (3-2), Bob Griffith (3-4), Bill Byrd (2-3), Henry “Red” Wright (2-1), Sam Thompson (1-4) and Tom Glover (0-1).

The Columbus Elite Giants played solid team baseball the entire season. They compiled the third best team batting average (.296) and had the third best team earned run average for pitching in the Negro National league for the 1935 season.

According to the Seamheads research group, the 1935 Columbus Giants finished the season with a record of 27-22-2 in Negro National League play and were in second place in the final “league” standings. The research team of Larry Lester and Dick Clark credit the 1935 Columbus Elite Giants with a “league” record of 28-21 (.571).



The final Negro National League standings for the 1935 season according to Lester and Clark are as follows:

#### Negro National League (1935)

|                                | Games | Record | Pct. |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------|
| Pittsburgh Crawfords           | 57    | 42-15  | .737 |
| Columbus Elite Giants          | 49    | 28-21  | .571 |
| New York Cubans                | 53    | 29-24  | .547 |
| Philadelphia Stars             | 57    | 29-28  | .509 |
| Brooklyn Eagles                | 61    | 29-32  | .475 |
| Homestead Grays                | 54    | 23-31  | .426 |
| Cole's Chicago American Giants | 57    | 22-35  | .386 |
| Newark Dodgers                 | 59    | 17-42  | .288 |



In October of 1935 Roy Parnell joined the Texas Centennials to play what was billed in the Houston Chronicle as a “Negro World Series” against Pittsburgh Crawfords who were the champions of the Negro National League with a record of 42-15 (.737). The Texas Centennials billed themselves as the Negro Dixie Series champions. Roy Parnell, Charlie Beverly, Chuffie Alexander and DeWitt Owens were the featured players for the Centennials. The first two games of the series were played at West End Park in Houston. The outcome of the series between Texas and Pittsburgh is still being researched.

Parnell also had his own team “Red Parnell’s All Stars” who played in Texas during the post season of 1935. In October Red Parnell’s All Stars played the Austin Centennials in a game at West End Park in Houston. Some of the players who appeared on Red Parnell’s team were Charlie Beverly, Ozzie Brown, Brit Ward and several players from the Houston Black Buffaloes.

**Red Parnell’s All Stars**  
Houston Chronicle  
 10-31-35

#### Red Parnell Becomes a Philadelphia Star

During the winter of 1936 Ed Bolden who owned the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro National League acquired Roy Parnell and Sad Sam Thompson from the Columbus Elite Giants in a trade for Raleigh “Biz” Mackey.

Before the start of the 1936 season, the Philadelphia Stars moved to 44<sup>th</sup> and Parkside Ball Park (also over the years called Parkside Field, Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA Athletic Field and Penmar Park) for their home games. The Stars would remain at 44<sup>th</sup> and Parkside Park until 1952. Philadelphia also played some games at Shibe Park (aka Connie Mack Stadium – home of both the Philadelphia Athletics and Philadelphia Phillies). Most of the games played at Shibe Park were held on Monday nights.

The 1936 Philadelphia Stars were managed by veteran Negro League pitcher Webster McDonald.

Roy Parnell was an instant hit in Philadelphia. He led the team in batting with a .378 batting average and a .490 slugging percentage during his first season with the Stars. The Philadelphia Stars fielded a strong hitting lineup in 1936 that besides Parnell included utility player Obie



Lackey (.384), Norman “Turkey Stearnes (.348 w/ 8 homeruns), Jud Wilson (.315), Dewey Creacy (.308), Jake Dunn (.298), and Bill Yancey (.284).

Parnell’s complete hitting statistics for the 1936 Negro National League season were as follows:

| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1936 | Philadelphia | 37    | 143 | 27   | 54   | 6  | 2  | 2  | 25  | 3  | .378 | .490 |

Unfortunately for Ed Bolden, his pitching staff let him down. As a team the Stars pitchers gave up almost five (5) runs a game. Webster McDonald (8-10), Bertum Hunter (7-3), Laymon Yokely (6-5), Sad Sam Thompson (5-4) and Rocky Ellis (4-2) comprised the starting rotation for the Stars during the 1936 season. The biggest disappointment in Philadelphia’s pitching staff was Slim Jones who could only manage a record of 1-2 for the season. He had gone from the most dominant pitcher in the East in 1933 to an undependable face in the bull pen.



**Shibe Park**  
Home of the Philadelphia Stars  
Philadelphia, PA

The Stars ended the 1936 season with a record of 25-30 (.455) in Negro National League games. They were in fifth place in the final “league” standings. In games against all levels of competition the Stars had a record of 31-38-1 (.450) which was one of the worst overall records in the Negro National League. The Pittsburgh Crawfords (36-24) repeated as Negro National League champions.

Going into the 1936 Negro National League season, Bolden thought he could employ the same strategies that had worked for him as Chairman of the Eastern Colored League. This, however, was not to be. The 1936 season proved to be very difficult for Ed Bolden in his job as the head of the Negro National League. Uncooperative owners made it difficult to enforce “league” rules and play a regular schedule. Team owners frequently missed “officially” scheduled league games in favor of playing a barnstorming schedule. The culmination of this frustration ended in the “league’s” championship series. When several members of the Crawfords and Elite Giants skipped the series in favor of barnstorming, Bolden canceled the series after only one game had

been played. Ed defended his action by saying that a series that lost money was worse than no series at all. In January of 1937, Ed Bolden was out and Gus Greenlee was back in as Chairman of the Negro National League.

### **Parnell Becomes a Mainstay in Philadelphia**

Before the start of the 1937 season Ed Bolden made several significant changes to the team. The first was a change in managers. Webster McDonald was out as the team's manager and replaced by Jud Wilson as the Stars' player/manager. When the 1937 season opened gone also were Turkey Stearnes and Bill Yancey from the starting line-up.

To make matters even worse for Bolden and the Philadelphia Stars, all the other top hitters in their starting lineup fell off dramatically with their offensive production from the season before. What little hitting and run production that Philadelphia got during the season was led by Curtis Harris (.289), Paul Dixon (.289), Ted Page (.278) and Gene Benson (.276). At age 41 and managing the team, Jud Wilson limited his playing time. In a part time role Jud hit .333 for the season.

Roy Parnell's playing time with the Philadelphia Stars was very limited for the season because he was one of the many Negro League players who jumped to the Dominican Republic for their 1937 season. Reportedly, Red left the Philadelphia Stars to go to the Dominican Republic in mid-June. Only six box scores for the 1937 season have been found for Red Parnell playing for the Philadelphia Stars. In these six games he went 11 for 23 for an impressive .478 batting average.

According to research by John Holway, Sad Sam Thompson (11-5) was the ace of the pitching staff and had the best pitching record in the Negro National League. Other starting pitchers for Philadelphia during the 1937 season were Webster McDonald (5-3), Rocky Ellis (4-6) and Jim Missouri (3-4).

Philadelphia continued their mediocre play in 1937 and posted their second losing season in a row. They ended the year with a record of 25-27 (.481) and in fourth place in the "league." The Seamheads research team credits the 1936 Philadelphia Stars with a record of 29-31-1 (.483). The Homestead Grays (31-13) won the Negro National League title and started a string of nine years in which they would dominate the "league."

### **Negro League Players Flock to the Dominican Republic**

In 1937 the Dominican Republic League fielded three teams (Cuidad Trujillo, Aguilas Cibanaes and Estrellas Orientales). Cuidad Trujillo was controlled by Rafael Trujillo who was the dictator of the country and an extremely passionate baseball fan. The other two teams were owned and operated by leading Dominican business men. Trujillo who loved baseball and didn't like losing for any reason was determined for his team to win the championship. To achieve this goal, Trujillo sent an emissary with a suit case full of money to the United States to bring back the best black ball players that money could buy. Some of the Negro League players who were signed by Trujillo included Satchel Paige (P), Josh Gibson (C), James "Cool Pappa" Bell (OF), Sam Bankhead, Leroy Matlock and Cy Perkins. The owners of the other two teams immediately responded by signing Negro League players of their own. Aguilas Cibanaes signed Martin Dihigo (P), Roy Parnell (OF), Chet Brewer (P), Bert Hunter (P), Clarence "Spoony" Palm, Pat Patterson and Clyde Spearman. The Estrellas Orientales signed Juan "Tetelo" Vargas, George "Tubby" Scales, Cocina Garcia, Alejandro Oms and Ramon Bragana. The signing of all these high priced Negro League players would bankrupt Dominican baseball for years.

The Aguilas Cibanaes team for which Red Parnell played was managed by Martin Dihigo and fielded a strong starting lineup. They were led by the hitting of Clyde Spearman (.352), Martin Dihigo (.351), Pat Patterson (.319), Santos Amaro (.309), Belito Alvarez (.285), Roy Parnell (.283) and Cando Lopez (.283). The pitching staff included Martin Dihigo (6-4), Bert Hunter (4-5), Chet Brewer (2-3) and Luis Tiant, Sr. (1-3).



**Santiago Aguilas Cibanaes (1937)**

The race for 1937 Dominican Republic League title was hotly contested the entire season. Led by the hitting of Josh Gibson who led the “league” offensively (.452 batting average with a .830 slugging percentage) and the pitching of Satchel Paige (8-2) Ciudad Trujillo narrowly won the Dominican League championship.

The final standings for the 1937 Dominican League season were as follows:

| Team                 | Games | Won | Lost | Pct. | Games Behind |
|----------------------|-------|-----|------|------|--------------|
| Ciudad Trujillo      | 31    | 18  | 13   | .581 | -            |
| Aguilas Cibanaes     | 28    | 13  | 15   | .464 | 3 ½          |
| Estrellas Orientales | 25    | 11  | 14   | .440 | 4            |

### **Denver Post Tournament**

When the Negro League players who played in the Dominican League returned home they formed a barnstorming team that was known as the “Trujillo All Stars.” Sometimes the team was also called “Ciudad Trujillo” or the “Santo Domingo Stars.” The most important stop on their barnstorming tour was the Denver Post Tournament.

The Denver Post Tournament brought the top sixteen (16) semiprofessional teams from all over the country to Denver to play for a championship. The top teams in the 1937 Denver Post Tournament were Ciudad Trujillo, Halliburton Cementers from Duncan (OK), Pampa (TX) with football great Sammy Baugh and the Denver Bay Refiners led by Rogers Hornsby.

The Ciudad Trujillo team was led by the hitting of Sam Bankhead (SS), James “Cool Papa” Bell (OF), Clarence “Spoony” Palm (C), Pat Patterson (3B), Roy “Red” Parnell (OF), Bill Perkins (C), George Scales (Mgr/utility), Clyde Spearman (OF), Dave “Showboat” Thomas (1B) and Harry Williams (2B). Their pitching staff included Chet Brewer, Robert Griffith, Leroy Matlock and Satchel Paige.



The Cuidad Trujillo team easily won their first six games by allowing just four runs. In addition they got three straight shutout wins from Chet Brewer, Bob Griffith and Leroy Matlock. Three of the top teams they defeated were Goalstone Brothers Jewelers with Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle, Seminole Red Birds and Roger Hornsby’s Bay Refiners.

In the championship game Cuidad Trujillo met the Halliburton Cementers of Duncan (OK). Satchel Paige who didn’t join the team until after the tournament had already started was selected to pitch for Cuidad Trujillo. Reportedly the team “threw” the game because they didn’t want Satchel Paige to collect the \$ 1,000 prize for the winning pitcher of the championship game. After a 6-4 loss to the Cementers, the two teams met for a second game to crown a “champion.” Leroy Matlock started the second “championship” game for Cuidad Trujillo. Miraculously the Negro Leaguers found their “game” and easily defeated Halliburton by a score of 11 to 2.

Currently only three box scores have been found for Roy Parnell playing with the Trujillo All Stars/Cuidad Trujillo/Santo Domingo All Stars. Parnell went 4 for 12 for a .333 batting average in these three games.

After the Denver Post Tournament, Red Parnell played for Satchel Paige’s Negro All Stars during their barnstorming tour in late August and early September of 1937. Some of the top players besides Parnell (OF) on Paige’s team were Sam Bankhead (SS), James “Cool Pappa” Bell (OF), Chet Brewer (P), Leroy Matlock (P), Pat Patterson (3B), Claude Spearman (OF) and Dave “Showboat” Thomas (1B).

In mid-October of 1937 Red Parnell joined the Homestead Grays for what the Houston Chronicle reported as a “Negro World Series.” In the five game series Homestead played against the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League at West End Park in Houston.



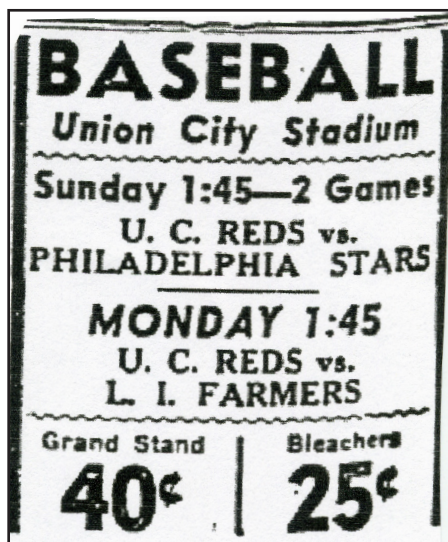
Homestead Grays (1937)

## Red Returns to Philly

After several seasons of mediocrity, Ed Bolden decided to make significant changes to his roster. Prior to the start of the 1938 season, Ed Bolden signed the following new players to bolster his hitting attack: Pat Patterson (.313), Bill Perkins (.302), Clyde Spearman (.299), George Giles (.297) Chester Williams (.296) and Jake Spearman (.286). All the new hitters produced at the plate to give the pitching staff the much needed run support that they had not had the season before. In addition Bolden got a much needed boost to his starting line-up with the return of Roy Parnell. When the season started Red was back as the team's starting left fielder. Roy's complete hitting statistics for the sixty (60) games he played for the Philadelphia Stars in "league" games and games against high level of competition were:

| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1938 | Philadelphia | 60    | 215 | 47   | 61   | 8  | 4  | 5  | 27  | 3  | .284 | .428 |

Bolden did not stop with bringing in new hitters. He also signed three new pitchers to the pitching staff. They were Henry McHenry (8-1), Ernest Carter (6-3), and Jack Burton (4-3). Holdovers Webster McDonald (6-7) and Jim Missouri (5-1) rounded out the starting rotation. Henry Miller (3-1), Slim Jones (2-1), Bob Evans (1-0), Rocky Ellis (1-2) and Sam Thompson (0-1) also pitched for the Philadelphia Stars in 1938.



**Jersey Journal**  
Jersey City, NJ  
05-28-38

Jud Wilson returned to manage the Philadelphia Stars in 1938.

One of the highlights of the 1938 season for the Philadelphia Stars was being part of a four team doubleheader played at Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C. This was the first time the Negro National League ever conducted this type of event. The New York Black Yankees played the Pittsburgh Crawford in one game and the Philadelphia Stars played the Baltimore Elite Giants.

The changes worked. The Philadelphia Stars got back to their winning ways in 1938. They went 30-24 (.556) against Negro National League competition in 1938. Even with a winning record they were still only in fifth place in the final Negro National League standings. The Homestead Grays (27-10) won both halves of the season and were crowned Negro National League champions for the second straight year.

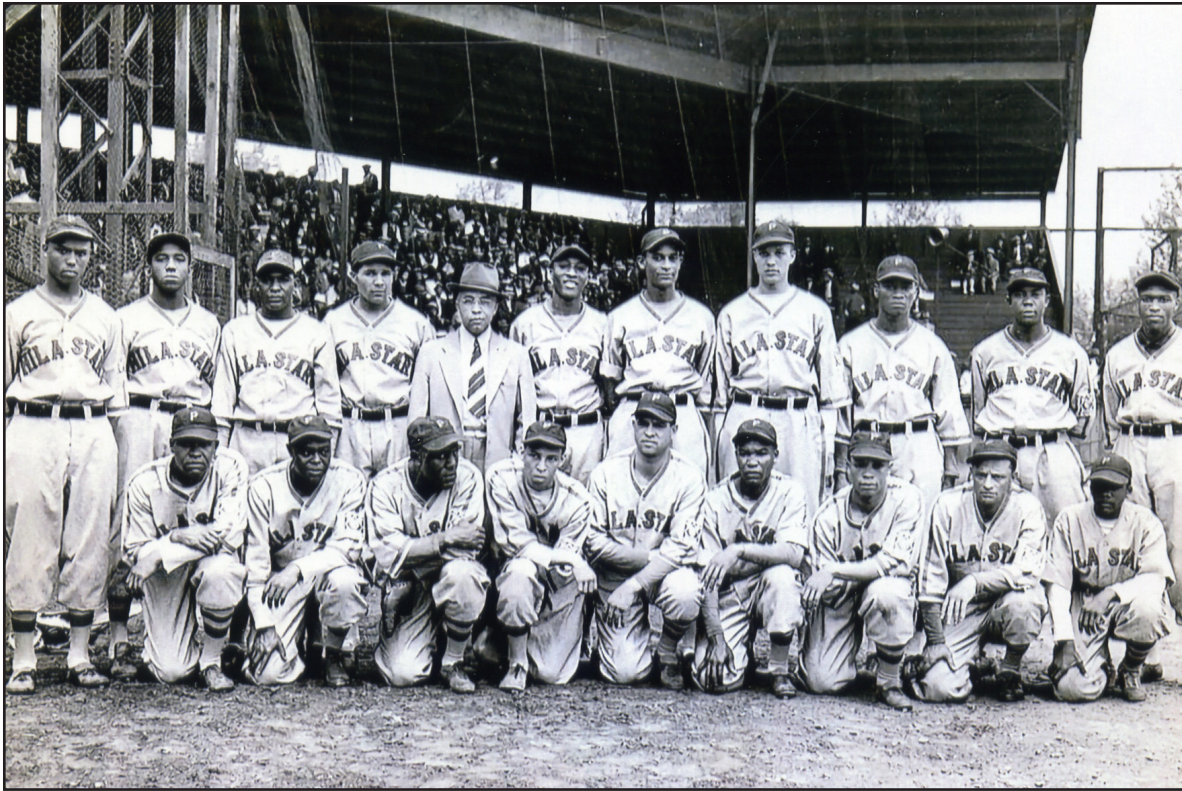
## Parnell Regains His Hitting Touch

Roy Parnell returned to the Philadelphia Stars of the Negro National League as the team's starting left fielder for the 1939 baseball season. Parnell had a very good season at the plate in 1939. He raised his season batting average 38 points from .284 in 1938 to .322 in 1939.

| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1939 | Philadelphia | 40    | 143 | 29   | 46   | 6  | 3  | 4  | 20  | 2  | .322 | .490 |

Philadelphia also got good hitting during the season from Pat Patterson (.348), Chester Williams (.338), Jud Wilson (.292), Curtis Harris (.289) and Gene Benson (.282). Jim West (.365) was the top player off the bench. The pitching staff for the Stars in 1939 included Henry McHenry (10-5), Sad Sam Thompson (5-5), Webster McDonald (5-7), Roy Welmaker (4-1) and Jim Missouri (2-8).





**Philadelphia Stars (1939)**  
Negro National League

(Back row left to right – Henry Miller, Ernest Carter, Bill Perkins, Henry McHenry, **Ed Bolden**, Chet Brewer, Sam Thompson, Bill Deck, **Harry Simpson**, Tom Evans and Rocky Ellis. Front row left to right – **Webster McDonald**, Clyde Spearman, **Jud Wilson**, unknown, Jake Dunn, Gene Benson, **Roy “Red” Parnell** and unknown.)

Jud Wilson was the manager of the Stars at the beginning of the season and was replaced by Jake Dunn about half way through the season. According to research by the Seamheads group Jud Wilson got off to a poor start at the beginning of the season and after posting a won-loss record of 11-17-1 (.393), he was replaced by Jake Dunn. The Philadelphia Stars found new life with Dunn in charge. According to Seamheads the Philadelphia Stars under Dunn went 16-13 (.552) for the remainder of the season.

The Philadelphia Stars returned to mediocrity in 1939. Most researchers credit Philadelphia with a 31-32 (.492) record for the 1939 Negro National League season. At the end of the season they were in fourth place in the “league” standings and light years behind the “league” leader Homestead Grays (33-14).

Like the season before, the Philadelphia Stars participated in the Negro National League’s “Second Annual Four Team Doubleheader.” The event in 1939 was played at Ruppert Stadium in Newark (NJ). The first game of the doubleheader was played between the Philadelphia Stars and the Baltimore Elite Giants. The Homestead Grays and the Newark Eagles met in the second game.

In 1939 Roy Parnell was selected to represent the Philadelphia Stars on the East team for the annual East-West All Star game. About 40,000 fans were in attendance at Comiskey Park on August 6<sup>th</sup> to witness a 4-2 West victory. Red went 0 for 3 in the game.



Roy Parnell was also selected to play for the South in the annual North-South All Star game in 1939. Local promoter Allen Page promoted the game that was played in New Orleans. New Orleans Crescent's manager Winfield Welch managed the South All Star team. Some of the top players on the South squad were Larry Brown (C), Marlin Carter (3B), Roosevelt Davis (P), Billy Horn (2B), Ulysses Redd (SS), Jelly Taylor (1B) and John Wright (P).

### **Jacob Ruppert Memorial Cup Tournament**

During the 1939 season a four team "championship" play-off series called the "Jacob Ruppert Memorial Cup Tournament" was held. The tournament was the brain child of Edward Barrow who was the president of the New York Yankees. Barrow held the event to honor the memory of Jacob Ruppert who had been the owner of the New York Yankees and had passed away the previous season. Barrow even donated an impressive trophy that was to be awarded to the winner of the four team Negro National League play-off.

The tournament was to originally have featured five doubleheaders to be played at Yankee Stadium for the summer of 1939. The format of the tournament was changed before the series even got underway. The teams selected for the series were the top four teams in the Negro National League. The Homestead Grays defeated the Philadelphia Stars and the Baltimore Elite Giants defeated the Newark Eagles in the first round. The Grays won their two game series with Stars by the scores of 12-9 and 15-9. According to the two box scores for the Stars playing the Grays, Red was amazing at the plate. He went 4 for 9 with a double, triple and two homeruns.

The Homestead Grays and Baltimore Elite Giants advanced to the finals. Baltimore defeated Homestead by winning three games to one (one game ended in a tie) for Homestead to claim the title.



**Yankee Stadium**  
Bronx, New York City, NY

### **Parnell is Named Manager of Philadelphia Stars**

Before the start of the 1940 season, Roy Parnell was named the manager of Ed Bolden's Philadelphia Stars who called Penmar Park in Philadelphia as their home field. After a poor start of 6-8 (.429) and for his inability to inject an aggressive spirit among the players, Red was relieved from his duties as the Stars' manager. He was replaced by Jake Dunn who managed the team for the remainder of the season.

Even though his tenure as manager was brief and ended in disappointment this did not affect his play on the field. Roy put up excellent batting statistics during the 1940 season.

| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1940 | Philadelphia | 54    | 193 | 46   | 62   | 10 | 3  | 3  | 31  | 1  | .321 | .451 |

Red Parnell started the season on a hot streak when he went 4 for 5 with a double, triple and four runs batted in in the first game of the season which was against the Baltimore Elite Giants and then he went 4 for 5 in the last game of the season which was played on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

During the 1940 season the Stars were led by the hitting of Jim West (.347), Roy Parnell (.321), Gene Benson (.318), Bill Bea (.315) and Larnie Jordan (.302). Pitcher Henry McHenry helped his own cause during the season with a .325 batting average (25 for 77).

Hitting wasn't the problem for Philadelphia during their 1940 season; it was ineffective pitching. Other than Henry McHenry (15-7) who was the ace of the pitching staff, no other Stars' pitcher had a winning record for the season. According to Negro League researcher John Holway, Chester Buchanan (5-9), Samuel Thompson (2-6), Webster McDonald (1-1), Ace Adams (0-1), Hank Miller (1-3), Jim Missouri (1-6) and Ralph Johnson (1-5) rounded out the pitching staff.

If 1939 had been a disappointment for Ed Bolden, things got even worse for the Philadelphia Stars during their 1940 campaign. When the season ended they were in next to last place in the Negro National League with a record of 30-44 (.405). Only the lowly New York Black Yankees who were the perennial doormat of the "league" had a worse record at 10-23 (.303).

### **Red Returns to Manage Philadelphia**

Even though he had been fired as the Philadelphia Stars' manager early in the 1940 season, Ed Bolden named Red Parnell as the manager of the 1941 Philadelphia Stars. After a dismal start of 3-13 (.188), Parnell was again fired as the team's manager. Roy was replaced as the team's manager for the remainder of the season by Oscar Charleston who didn't fare much better with a record of 14-39 (.264).

Roy Parnell (.323) and Pat Patterson (.323) were the only two players in the starting line-up to hit over .300 for the 1941 season. Larnie Jordan (.284), Clarence "Spoony" Palm (.278) and Gene Benson (.264) had decent seasons but could not provide enough run support to produce wins. Red's complete hitting statistics for "league" games during the season were as follows:

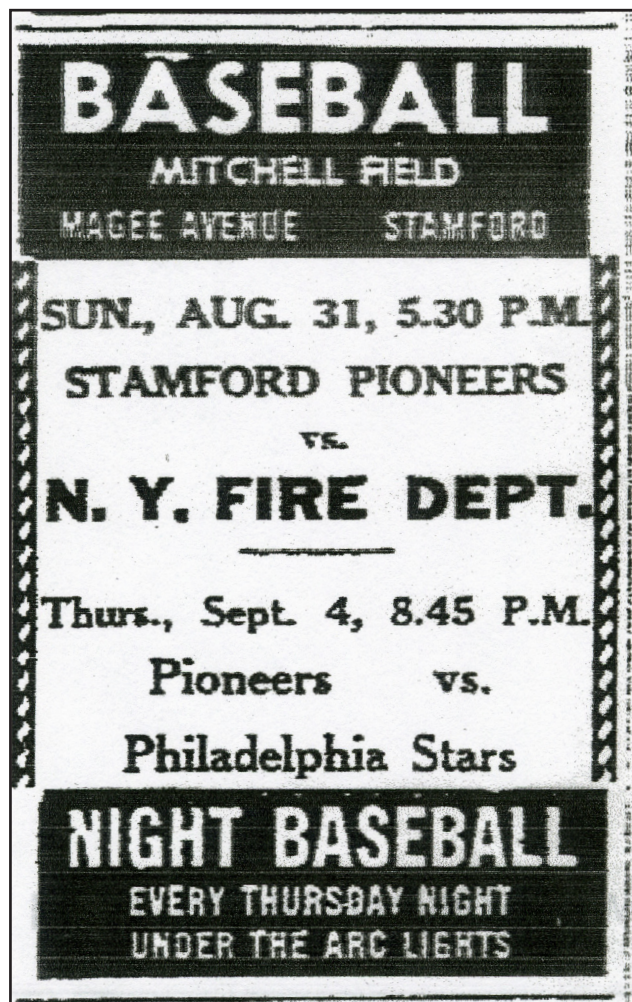
| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1941 | Philadelphia | 65    | 248 | 25   | 80   | 9  | 1  | 1  | 23  | 5  | .323 | .379 |

To make matters worse the pitching staff was even more ineffective than Philadelphia's hitting. Every starting pitcher had a losing record for the season. Henry McHenry (6-14), Edsall Walker (4-6), Chet Brewer (2-6), Chester "Buck" Buchanan (1-7) and Joe Fillmore (1-8) were the primary starters on the pitching staff.

If the 1940 season were not bad enough, the 1941 season was even worse. They ended the season in last place in the final Negro National League standings with a record of 13-29 (.310). Even the lowly New York Black Yankees who were at home finishing at the bottom of the “league” standings had a better record at 13-19 (.406). The final standings for the 1942 Negro National League were as follows:

**Negro National League (1941)**

|                           | <b>Games</b> | <b>Record</b> | <b>Pct.</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Baltimore Elite Giants    | 57           | 36-21         | .632        |
| Homestead Grays           | 59           | 34-25         | .576        |
| Newark Eagles             | 34           | 19-15         | .559        |
| New York Cubans           | 40           | 19-21         | .475        |
| New York Black Yankees    | 32           | 13-19         | .406        |
| <b>Philadelphia Stars</b> | <b>42</b>    | <b>13-29</b>  | <b>.310</b> |



Daily Advocate  
Stamford, CT  
08-30-41

The Seamheads research group credits the Philadelphia Stars with a Negro National League record of 15-46 (.246) and record of 17-52 (.246) against all levels of competition for the 1941 season.



When the 1942 Negro National League season got underway, Red was back in the starting line-up as the Stars left fielder. Roy played consistent ball the entire season and ended the season with a very respectable .319 batting average. His complete hitting statistics for the season were:

| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1942 | Philadelphia | 43    | 160 | 39   | 51   | 7  | 0  | 1  | 32  | 0  | .319 | .381 |

After one of the worst seasons in Ed Bolden's career in 1941, he knew that drastic changes had to be made. First, Homer "Goose" Curry was hired as the team's player/manager. Bolden then signed Jake Spearman (.344) and Buster Clarkson (.355) to breathe life back into Philadelphia's hitting attack. In addition Ed brought in Barney Brown (10-10) and Terris McDuffie (6-4) to help turn around the pitching staff.

The leading hitters for the 1942 season for the Stars were Buster Clarkson (.355), Jake Spearman (.344), Roy Parnell (.319) Goose Curry (.285), Bill Cooper (.274) and Jim West (.274).

Besides Brown and McDuffie, Joe Fillmore (4-3), Chester "Buck" Buchanan (4-2), Walter "Lefty" Calhoun (1-3), Robert Evans (1-3), Eddie Jefferson (1-1), Tom Robert (0-1) and Henry McHenry (0-0) also pitched for the Philadelphia Stars in 1942.

The Philadelphia Stars rebounded from their horrific performance in 1941. They played solid baseball all season and ended the year with a winning record of 21-17 (.553). The Stars moved up from last place in 1941 to third place in the final 1942 Negro National League standings. The final "league" standings were as follows:

#### Negro National League (1942)

|                           | Games     | Record       | Pct.        |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Baltimore Elite Giants    | 52        | 37-15        | .712        |
| Homestead Grays           | 43        | 26-17        | .605        |
| <b>Philadelphia Stars</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>21-17</b> | <b>.553</b> |
| Newark Eagles             | 36        | 19-17        | .528        |
| New York Cubans           | 27        | 8-19         | .296        |
| New York Black Yankees    | 28        | 8-20         | .286        |

The Philadelphia Stars opened their 1943 season with a renewed sense of hope after coming off a strong season in 1942. The 1943 Philadelphia Stars were led by the hitting of Gene Benson (.337), Jim West (.310), Barney Brown (.306), Roy "Red" Parnell (.295), Jake Spearman (.283) and Homer "Goose" Curry (.293). Rookie short stop Marvin Williams also contributed by coming off the bench and hitting .408 (20 for 49). In Parnell's last season as a starter in the Negro Leagues, Roy Parnell put up very good numbers offensively. His 1943 Negro National League batting statistics were as follows:

| Year | Team         | Games | AB  | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1943 | Philadelphia | 38    | 132 | 28   | 39   | 5  | 4  | 0  | 17  | 0  | .295 | .394 |

Barney Brown (7-9), Chester Buchanan (6-3), Verdell "Lefty" Mathis (4-2), Homer "Goose" Curry (3-3), Robert "Zeke" Keys (2-0) and Pete Sunkett (2-0) were the team's top pitchers. Larry Kimbrough (1-0), Ben Hill (1-0), Emery "Ace" Adams (0-1), Bill Byrd (0-1) and Willie Bunn (0-1) also pitched for Philadelphia in 1943.

Researchers disagree on the Philadelphia Stars record in 1943. Larry Lester and Dick Clark credit Philadelphia with a record of 26-28 (.481) and in fifth place for the 1942 Negro National League season. Negro League researcher John Holway credits the Stars with a record of 26-21 (.553) and in third place in the final "league" standings. Lastly the Seamheads research team credit the 1943 Philadelphia Stars with a record of 21-31-1 in "league" play and a 24-33-1 record in games against all levels of competition.



**Gus Greenlee**  
Pittsburgh Crawfords  
Owner

After the regular 1943 Negro League season had concluded play, Roy Parnell joined the Negro National League All Stars for their post season barnstorming tour. The team was managed by Homer “Goose” Curry. Parnell was the starting right fielder for the team. The rest of the starting line-up included Dave Thomas (1B), Leon Day (2B), Marvin Williams (SS), Sy Morton (3B), Bill Cash (C), Ed Stone (RF) and Gene Benson (CF). Barney Brown, Bill Anderson, Leniel Hooker and Pete Sunkett were the team’s pitchers.

### **United States League is Born**

Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers knew that the integration of Major League Baseball was on the horizon and that signing black baseball players was going to be an integral of the process. Rickey also knew that there would be significant challenges. Scouting black baseball players was one of the major issues facing “white organized baseball.” With the help of Gus Greenlee (owner of the Pittsburgh Crawfords), the United States League was formed in May of 1945. From Rickey’s perspective, the purpose of the United States League was to scout and develop black ball players for Major League Baseball. When the United States League opened for the season the teams, owners, managers and home field were as follows:

### **United States League (1945)**

| <b>Team</b>               | <b>Owner/Management</b>       | <b>Manager</b>                   | <b>Home Field</b>         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brooklyn Brown Dodgers    | Joe Hall<br>George Armstrong  | Felix Mellix<br>Oscar Charleston | Ebbetts Field             |
| Pittsburgh Crawfords      | Gus Greelee                   | Fred Burnette<br>Tom Parker      | Forbes Field              |
| Chicago Brown Bombers     | James Foster                  | Bingo De Moss<br>James Foster    | Wrigley Field             |
| Philadelphia Hilldales    | Webster McDonald              | Oscar Charleston                 | Harrisburg Field          |
| Toledo Rays               | Hank Rigney<br>Jesse Heslip   | Pee Wee Spencer                  | American Association Park |
| Detroit Motor City Giants | Benjamin E. Linton<br>Perkins | Dimp Miller                      | Motor City Field          |

In addition to these six teams, New Orleans and Indianapolis entered the league in 1945 as associate members.

Reportedly, Branch Rickey provided the financial backing for the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers and worked out a deal for the Brown Dodgers to play their home games at Ebbetts Field when the Brooklyn Dodgers were out of town.

Even though he was at the end of his playing career, Roy “Red” Parnell was signed by the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers as an outfielder. Currently hitting statistics for the 1945 season are not available.



**Oscar Charleston**  
Brooklyn Brown Dodgers  
Manager

According to Negro League researcher Larry Lester, the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers finished in third place in the final “league” standings at the end of the season.

### **Parnell Manages Pittsburgh**

After barely surviving the 1945 season, United States League officials and team owners decided to play a “league” schedule for the 1946 baseball season. The 1946 United States League included the following teams: Boston Blues, Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, Chicago Brown Bombers, Cleveland Clippers, Detroit Motor City Giants, Pittsburgh Crawfords and Toledo Cubs. The Louisville Black Colonels, Newark Black Buffaloes and Trenton Stars were associate members of the “league.”

Before the start of the 1946 United States League, Gus Greenlee who owned the Pittsburgh Crawfords signed Roy “Red” Parnell to manage his team. Some of the top players on the 1946 Pittsburgh Crawfords roster were Joe Atkins (3B), Bernardo Fernandez (P), Ben Hill (P), Gibbie Meeks (2B), Sy Morton (SS), Dave Pope (3B), Wille Pope (P), Joe B. Scott (1B), Al Spearman (OF), Henry Spearman (1B) and David Whatley (OF).

The United States League was short lived. The two main reasons for the failure of the “league” was that the teams failed to build a loyal fan base and most of the teams failed to secure adequate facilities for their home games. In addition the United States League never received the support of the Negro National League, Negro American League or Negro Southern League.

From late 1946 through the first half of the 1949 season it appears that Roy Parnell was out of professional baseball.

### **Parnell Manages the Houston Eagles**

After the conclusion of the 1948 season Abe and Effa Manley sold the Newark Eagles team to Dr. William H. Young who was a Texas native and prominent Memphis dentist. The first thing that Dr. Young did was to move his team to Houston, Texas and rename them the “Houston Eagles.” With the Negro National League gone, the Houston Eagles joined the Western Division of the Negro American League for the 1949 season.

The leading hitters for Houston were Johnny Davis (OF), Bob Harvey (OF), Pat Patterson (2B/3B), Leon Ruffin (C), John Washington (1B), Jimmy Wilkes (OF) and Willie “Curley” Williams (SS). The pitching staff for the 1949 Eagles included: Welda Gibson, Clyde Golden, Len Hooker, Rufus Lewis, Max Manning and Robert “Cotton” Williams.



The Houston Eagles were initially managed by Reuben Jones and played their home games at Buffalo Stadium in Houston (TX). After a last place finish for the first half of the season Reuben Jones was fired and replaced as manager by Roy “Red” Parnell. Unfortunately the Houston Eagles didn’t play any better under Parnell. Close to the end of the season Red was fired and Leon Ruffin was named as the interim manager.

Apparently there were no published standings for the Western Division of the Negro American League for the 1949 season.

Disappointed with the Houston Eagles performance during the 1949 season, Dr. Young knew he had to make changes if his team was going to perform better during the 1950 Negro American League season. Dr. Young’s answer was to bring Red Parnell back as the team’s manager. Leon Ruffin who was the interim manager at the end of the 1949 season was retained as the team’s starting catcher. In what turned out to be a counter productive move, Rufus Lewis was sold to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Financially it was a good move, but the Houston Eagles gave up their best pitcher. Before the start of the season Dr. Young also signed catcher Bob Turner who had recently been released by the Boston Braves of the National League.

In spring training Roy Parnell was filled with enthusiasm about the upcoming season. From day one Red boasted that he would be fielding a championship team for the upcoming season. When the Houston Informer interviewed Parnell he was quoted as follows:

“I want to put Houston back on the baseball map again. With the type of youngsters and seasoned veterans I have this year, I didn’t believe we’ll be anybody’s pushover.....I promise Houston fans that if they’ll give me their support, they’ll get a team they can be proud of.”

Some of the Houston Eagles’ top offensive players during the season were Eddie Brooks (2B), Larry Cunningham (OF), Willie Grace (OF), Wiley Griggs (3B), Bob Harvey (OF), Leon Ruffin (C), James Wilkes (OF), Willie “Curley Williams (OF) and Robert Wilson (OF).

The pitching staff for Houston included Bill “Fireball” Beverly, Johnny Davis, Welda Gibson, Clyde Golden, Jehosie Heard, John “Stony” Jackson and Ray Spottsville.

Even with all Parnell’s enthusiasm reality set in as soon as the season started play. Unfortunately for Houston management only 500 fans showed up for the opening game of the season against the Chicago American Giants. Parnell’s team delivered in their first outing of the season. Behind a nine run sixth inning the Houston Eagles scored a 15-9 victory.

The Houston Eagles got a shot in the arm when Rufus Lewis returned after being released by the Brooklyn Dodgers.

With extremely low attendance in Houston, the Eagles considered moving back to Newark. In the end Dr. Young and Roy Parnell remained dedicated to the City of Houston. Fan support was so bad, however, that Houston management had to cut salaries and even went as far as playing many of their home games in Nashville, TN.

In 1950 the Houston Eagles played better ball than they had the previous season. At the end of the first half of the season they had a won-loss record of 18-21-1 and were in third place in the Negro American League Western Division which was significantly better than their last place finish in 1949. The Eagles were less productive during the second half of the season and only posted a record of 5-20. Houston ended the season with a won-loss record of 23-41-1. This was Red’s last season in professional baseball. After the season returned home to a quiet life of retirement.

### **Passing of a Legend**

Roy Parnell passed away on February 16, 1954 at the age of 49 in Philadelphia, PA. Parnell was laid to rest in Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, PA.

## Playing Career

### Regular Season:

| Year      | Team                       | League                          |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1925      | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas Colored League            |
| 1926      | Austin Black Senators      | Texas Colored League            |
| 1926      | New Orleans Caulfield Ads  | Negro Southern League           |
| 1926      | New Orleans Black Pelicans | Negro Southern League           |
| 1926      | New Orleans Black Pelicans | Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League |
| 1926      | Birmingham Black Barons    | Negro Southern League           |
| 1927-1928 | Birmingham Black Barons    | Negro National League           |
| 1929      | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League |
| 1930-1931 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana Negro League    |
| 1931      | Monroe Monarchs            | Texas-Louisiana Negro League    |
| 1932      | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas Negro League              |
| 1932      | Monroe Monarchs            | Negro Southern League           |
| 1933-1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Southern League           |
| 1934      | Nashville Elite Giants     | Negro National League           |
| 1934      | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Post Season Play                |
| 1935      | Detroit Elite Giants       | Negro National League           |
| 1935      | Columbus Elite Giants      | Negro National League           |
| 1936-1943 | Philadelphia Stars         | Negro National League           |
| 1945      | Brooklyn Brown Bombers     | United States League            |
| 1946      | Pittsburgh Crawfords       | United States League            |
| 1949-1950 | Houston Eagles             | Negro American League           |



**Heinemann Park**  
New Orleans, LA

## New Orleans Crescents – Championship Series (1933)

### Crescent Stars Will Open Series With Houston Nine

The Crescent Stars will open a six-game series with the Houston Black Buffaloes today at Crescent Park. This is considered the most important series the Stars have carded this season. The Buffs are champions of Texas and the Stars are champions of the negro Southern League for the first half, and are trying to win the right to play in the negro world series by eliminating all state champions.

Today is Kiddies' Day. Sunday and Tuesday there will be doubleheaders and Monday will be Ladies' Day.

New Orleans vs Houston

Times-Picayune  
New Orleans, LA  
07-01-33

### Crescent Stars to Play Birmingham Nine Today

The Crescent Stars meet the Birmingham nine in a four-game series at Crescent Park starting today at 4 o'clock and running through Monday. This is the first of a series of bi-state championship games.

The Alabama boys come to the Crescent City with claims to the Alabama title and the Stars have recently won the Louisiana title by defeating the Alexandria and Algiers nines. Nash, veteran wrong-side hurler, is leading the Alabama forces against the Stars and from the team he is bringing here he should give the Stars plenty trouble. The Stars must win this series to be left in the running for the negro world series play with the winners of the Negro National League.

There will be a reserved section of the grandstand for white fans at all games. Today is kiddies' day.

New Orleans vs Birmingham

Times-Picayune  
New Orleans, LA  
07-01-33

### Crescents Beat Nashville for Negro Dixie Ball Title

(Special to The Times-Picayune)  
Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 17. — The Crescent Stars of New Orleans won the negro Dixie title by defeating Nashville 2 to 1 in the last game of a doubleheader here today. Nashville took the first contest, 8 to 2.

Smith and Williams worked the last game for the Stars and Morris and Pipkins the first. The Stars will play Chicago in the negro world series starting at New Orleans Saturday.

Negro Dixie Series  
New Orleans vs Nashville

Times-Picayune  
New Orleans, LA  
09-18-33

### Negro Ball Series to Open Saturday

The negro world series will start Saturday at Crescent Park between the Chicago American Giants, champions of the negro National League, and the Crescent Stars, champions of the negro Southern League and Dixie champions.

The Stars won the right to play in this series when they defeated the Nashville Elite Giants four out of seven games in the negro Dixie series. This is the first time a Southern team has won the right to play in the negro world series.

New Orleans vs Chicago

New Orleans States  
New Orleans, LA  
09-30-33



## Post Season Play and Winter Leagues:

|      |                                 |                                                    |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1927 | Birmingham Black Barons         | Play-Off Series vs Chicago American Giants         |
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Championship Series vs Kansas City Monarchs        |
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Series vs San Luis (Champions of Mexico)           |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Two Games vs Kansas City Monarchs                  |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Game vs Homestead Grays                            |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Three Game Series vs Memphis Red Sox               |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Championship Series vs St. Louis Stars             |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Championship Series vs Chicago American Giants     |
| 1931 | Monroe Monarchs                 | Negro Dixie Series vs Nashville Elite Giants       |
| 1932 | Houston Black Buffaloes         | Game vs Pittsburgh Crawfords                       |
| 1932 | Monroe Monarchs                 | Negro Dixie Series vs Austin Black Senators        |
| 1932 | Monroe Monarchs                 | Championship Series vs Pittsburgh Crawfords        |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars      | Negro Dixie Series vs Nashville Elite Giants       |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars      | Championship Series vs Chicago American Giants     |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars      | Eight Game Series vs Chicago American Giants       |
| 1934 | West                            | East-West All Star Game                            |
| 1934 | West                            | North-South All Star Game                          |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars      | Post Season Play                                   |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars      | Series vs Chicago American Giants                  |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars      | Doubleheader vs Philadelphia Stars                 |
| 1934 | Austin Black Senators           | Doubleheader vs Philadelphia Stars                 |
| 1935 | Columbus Elite Giants           | Doubleheader vs Sid Sankovic's Federation Stars    |
| 1935 | Columbus Elite Giants           | Game at Yankee Stadium vs New York Cubans          |
| 1935 | Texas Centennials               | Game vs Pittsburgh Crawfords                       |
| 1935 | Red Parnell's All Stars         | Game vs Austin Centinnels                          |
| 1937 | Philadelphia Stars              | Game vs Southern Select Beermen                    |
| 1937 | Philadelphia Stars              | Game vs Ft. Worth Black Panthers                   |
| 1937 | Philadelphia Stars              | Game vs Brooklyn Bushwicks                         |
| 1937 | South Team                      | North-South All Star Game                          |
| 1937 | Aguilas Cibanaes                | Dominican League                                   |
| 1937 | Trujillo All Stars              | Independent - Barnstorming Tour                    |
| 1937 | Cuidad Trujillo                 | Denver Post Tournament                             |
| 1937 | Satchel Paige's Negro All Stars | Game vs Kansas City Monarchs                       |
| 1937 | Homestead Grays                 | Championship Series vs Kansas City Monarchs        |
| 1938 | Philadelphia Stars              | Three Game Play-Off series vs Pittsburgh Crawfords |
| 1939 | Philadelphia Stars              | Championship Play-Off Series vs Homestead Grays    |
| 1940 | Philadelphia Stars              | Post Season Play                                   |
| 1942 | Philadelphia Stars              | Post Season Play                                   |
| 1943 | Negro National League All Stars | Barnstorming Tour                                  |

## Managerial Career

| Year      | Team                       | League                          |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1929      | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League |
| 1930-1931 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana League          |
| 1932      | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas Negro League              |
| 1933-1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Southern League           |
| 1940      | Philadelphia Stars         | Negro National League           |
| 1941      | Philadelphia Stars         | Negro National League           |
| 1946      | Pittsburgh Crawfords       | United States League            |
| 1949-1950 | Houston Eagles             | Negro American League           |

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

| Year  | Team         | Games | AB   | Runs | Hits | 2B  | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA    | SLG   |
|-------|--------------|-------|------|------|------|-----|----|----|-----|----|-------|-------|
| 1925  | Houston      | 5     | 19   | 2    | 5    | 3   | 1  | 0  | 3   | 0  | .263  | .526  |
| 1926  | New Orleans  | 42    | 144  | 38   | 56   | 10  | 10 | 11 | 19  | 7  | .389  | .826  |
| 1927  | Birmingham   | 79    | 298  | 74   | 128  | 23  | 9  | 9  | 39  | 21 | .430  | .658  |
| 1928  | Birmingham   | 78    | 294  | 44   | 94   | 21  | 7  | 8  | 45  | 9  | .320  | .520  |
| 1929  | Houston      | 1     | 5    | 3    | 3    | 0   | 0  | 1  | 4   | 0  | .600  | 1.200 |
| 1930  | Houston      | 9     | 33   | 6    | 8    | 3   | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0  | .242  | .333  |
| 1932  | Houston      | 1     | 4    | -    | 3    | 0   | 3  | 0  | -   | -  | .750  | 2.250 |
| 1932  | Monroe       | 41    | 151  | 40   | 58   | 10  | 10 | 1  | 36  | 10 | .384  | .801  |
| 1933  | New Orleans  | 1     | 3    | 0    | 1    | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .333  | .333  |
| 1934  | New Orleans  | 3     | 3    | 1    | 3    | 0   | 0  | 2  | 2   | 0  | 1.000 | 3.000 |
| 1934  | Nashville    | 9     | 29   | 9    | 8    | 2   | 0  | 4  | 7   | 0  | .276  | .759  |
| 1935  | Columbus     | 26    | 108  | 22   | 36   | 10  | 3  | 1  | 22  | 2  | .333  | .509  |
| 1936  | Philadelphia | 37    | 143  | 27   | 54   | 6   | 2  | 2  | 25  | 3  | .378  | .490  |
| 1937  | Philadelphia | 6     | 23   | 5    | 11   | 0   | 0  | 0  | 3   | 2  | .478  | .478  |
| 1938  | Philadelphia | 60    | 215  | 47   | 61   | 8   | 4  | 5  | 27  | 3  | .284  | .428  |
| 1939  | Philadelphia | 40    | 143  | 29   | 46   | 6   | 3  | 4  | 20  | 2  | .322  | .490  |
| 1940  | Philadelphia | 54    | 193  | 46   | 62   | 10  | 3  | 3  | 31  | 1  | .321  | .451  |
| 1941  | Philadelphia | 65    | 248  | 25   | 80   | 9   | 1  | 1  | 23  | 5  | .323  | .379  |
| 1942  | Philadelphia | 43    | 160  | 39   | 51   | 7   | 0  | 1  | 32  | 0  | .319  | .381  |
| 1943  | Philadelphia | 38    | 132  | 28   | 39   | 5   | 4  | 0  | 17  | 0  | .295  | .394  |
| Total |              | 638   | 2348 | 485  | 807  | 133 | 60 | 53 | 357 | 65 | .344  | .519  |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Championship Series)

| Year  | Team         | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG   |
|-------|--------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|-------|
| 1927  | Birmingham   | 5     | 21 | 2    | 5    | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1   | 0  | .238 | .381  |
| 1931  | Monroe       | 1     | 4  | -    | 3    | 0  | 1  | 0  | -   | -  | .750 | 1.250 |
| 1932  | Monroe       | 7     | 31 | 2    | 10   | 3  | 1  | 0  | 5   | 3  | .323 | .484  |
| 1939  | Philadelphia | 2     | 9  | 2    | 4    | 1  | 1  | 2  | 4   | 0  | .444 | 1.444 |
| Total |              | 15    | 65 | 6    | 22   | 5  | 4  | 2  | 10  | 3  | .338 | .569  |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (East-West All Star Game)

| Year   | Team         | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|--------|--------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1934   | Nashville    | 1     | 4  | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000 | .000 |
| 1939   | Philadelphia | 1     | 3  | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000 | .000 |
| Totals |              | 2     | 7  | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000 | .000 |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Non-League)

| Year  | Team         | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG   |
|-------|--------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|-------|
| 1936  | Philadelphia | 1     | 3  | 2    | 2    | 2  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .667 | 1.333 |
| 1939  | Philadelphia | 4     | 16 | 5    | 6    | 1  | -  | -  | 3   | -  | .375 | .438  |
| 1940  | Philadelphia | 1     | 5  | 0    | 1    | -  | -  | -  | -   | -  | .200 | .200  |
| 1941  | Philadelphia | 3     | 10 | 1    | 4    | 1  | -  | -  | 4   | -  | .400 | .500  |
| Total |              | 9     | 34 | 8    | 13   | 4  | -  | -  | 7   | -  | .382 | .500  |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Barnstorming and Exhibition Games)

| Year  | Team          | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG   |
|-------|---------------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|-------|
| 1936  | Philadelphia  | 1     | 5  | 2    | 2    | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0  | .400 | 1.000 |
| 1937  | Santo Domingo | 3     | 12 | 3    | 4    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 1  | .333 | .333  |
| 1939  | Philadelphia  | 1     | 4  | 2    | 1    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .250 | .250  |
| 1940  | Philadelphia  | 2     | 9  | 3    | 7    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 0  | .778 | .778  |
| 1942  | Philadelphia  | 1     | 4  | 0    | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000 | .000  |
| 1943  | NNL All Stars | 3     | 8  | 2    | 0    | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000 | .000  |
| Total |               | 11    | 42 | 12   | 14   | 0  | 0  | 1  | 6   | 1  | .333 | .405  |

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Dominican Republic)

| Year | Team    | Games | AB | Runs | Hits | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|------|---------|-------|----|------|------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| 1937 | Aguilas | 12    | 46 | 4    | 13   | 1  | 0  | 1  | 7   | -  | .283 | .370 |

### Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

|                          | Games | AB   | Runs | Hits | 2B  | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | BA   | SLG  |
|--------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-----|----|----|-----|----|------|------|
| Negro Leagues            | 638   | 2348 | 485  | 807  | 133 | 60 | 53 | 357 | 65 | .344 | .519 |
| Championship Series      | 15    | 65   | 6    | 22   | 5   | 4  | 2  | 10  | 3  | .338 | .569 |
| East-West All Star Games | 2     | 7    | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0   | 0  | .000 | .000 |
| Non-League Games         | 9     | 34   | 8    | 13   | 4   | -  | -  | 7   | -  | .382 | .500 |
| Dominican Republic       | 12    | 46   | 4    | 13   | 1   | 0  | 1  | 7   | -  | .283 | .370 |
| Barnstorming             | 11    | 42   | 12   | 14   | 0   | 0  | 1  | 6   | 1  | .333 | .405 |
| Total                    | 687   | 2542 | 515  | 869  | 143 | 64 | 57 | 387 | 69 | .342 | .518 |

(It is important to note that many box scores did not list runs batted in.)

### Career Statistics – Pitching (Negro Leagues)

| Year | Team         | Games | Innings | Won | Lost | Hits | Runs | BB | S0 | ERA |
|------|--------------|-------|---------|-----|------|------|------|----|----|-----|
| 1926 | New Orleans  | 1     | 7.0     | 1   | 0    | 5    | -    | 3  | 3  | -   |
| 1927 | Birmingham   | 1     | 7.1     | 0   | 1    | 7    | 9    | 5  | 6  | -   |
| 1932 | Monroe       | 8     | 63.0    | 8   | 0    | 37   | 12   | 21 | 31 | -   |
| 1940 | Philadelphia | 1     | 7.0     | 0   | 1    | 8    | 3    | 0  | 0  | -   |
| 1942 | Philadelphia | -     | 8.0     | 0   | 0    | 9    | 12   | 0  | 0  | -   |
|      | Totals       | 11    | 92.1    | 9   | 2    | 66   | 36   | 29 | 40 | -   |

### Batting and League Leader – Hitting Titles

| Category            | Year | League                | Number |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------|--------|
| Batting Average     | 1927 | Negro National League | .430   |
|                     | 1932 | Negro Southern League | .384   |
| Slugging Percentage | 1927 | Negro National League | .658   |
|                     | 1932 | Negro Southern League | .801   |
| Hits                | 1932 | Negro Southern League | 58     |
| Total Bases         | 1932 | Negro Southern League | 88     |
| Runs                | 1932 | Negro Southern League | 40     |
| Doubles             | 1932 | Negro Southern League | 10     |
|                     | 1938 | Negro National League | 8      |
| Triples             | 1932 | Negro Southern League | 10     |
| Homeruns            | 1926 | Negro Southern League | 25     |
| * Runs Batted In    | 1932 | Negro Southern League | 36     |
| Stolen Bases        | 1927 | Negro National League | 21     |



## Assessing Roy Parnell's Baseball Career

- Roy “Red” Parnell was an **excellent Negro League ball player who failed to gain the national notoriety** of the other top black ball players of his day because he played a large portion of his career in the South. Unfortunately, his **outstanding career has been largely overlooked.**
- Even though Negro League historians and researchers have different yearly and career hitting statistics for Roy Parnell, all agree that he was an **outstanding hitter**. The following chart presents the research of six leading Negro League research groups:

|                 | CNLBR | Lester & Clark | Seamheads | Baseball Reference | John Holway | MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1925            | .263  | .263           | -         | .263               | -           | -                               |
| 1926            | .389  | .367           | -         | .412               | -           | -                               |
| 1927            | .417  | .417           | -         | .436               | .429        | .426                            |
| 1928            | .320  | .320           | .316      | .313               | .326        | .326                            |
| 1929            | .600  | .600           | -         | -                  | -           | -                               |
| 1930            | .242  | .242           | -         | .118               | -           | -                               |
| 1931            | -     | -              | -         | -                  | -           | -                               |
| 1932            | .384  | .338           | -         | .345               | .500        | -                               |
| 1933            | .333  | .333           | -         | -                  | -           | -                               |
| 1934            | .276  | .200           | .222      | -                  | -           | .222                            |
| 1935            | .333  | .337           | .333      | .337               | .281        | .256                            |
| 1936            | .378  | .353           | .378      | .357               | .309        | .314                            |
| 1937            | .478  | .333           | .360      | .333               | .478        | .478                            |
| 1938            | .284  | .253           | .284      | .238               | .187        | .203                            |
| 1939            | .322  | .298           | .322      | .306               | .274        | .272                            |
| 1940            | .321  | .321           | .297      | .310               | .310        | .248                            |
| 1941            | .323  | .283           | .289      | .284               | .312        | .323                            |
| 1942            | .319  | .311           | .287      | .287               | .286        | .288                            |
| 1943            | .295  | .284           | .279      | .298               | .277        | .277                            |
|                 |       |                |           |                    |             |                                 |
| At Bats         | 2348  | 2274           | 1628      | 2006               | 2115        | 1925                            |
| Hits            | 807   | 741            | 499       | 643                | 662         | 594                             |
| Batting Average | .344  | .326           | .307      | .321               | .313        | .309                            |

(Note- CNLBR stands for the Center for Negro League Baseball Research and the research team of Lester and Clark refers to Larry Lester and Dick Clark.)

- Even though we have found 687 professional games and 2,542 at bats with 869 hits for Roy Parnell's career, we are still missing a **significant portion of his career hitting statistics**. Current research credits Roy with a .342 career batting average with a .518 slugging percentage. Some examples of missing statistics are as follows:
  - For his 1925, 1929, 1930 and 1931 seasons with the Houston Black Buffaloes we have only located a small handful of games. We are most likely missing 250 plus games and at least 1,000 plate appearances from these four years.
  - We only have found one box score for his 1933 season with New Orleans.
  - In 1934 Parnell played for the Nashville Elite Giants and we only have nine games for which we have found hitting statistics.
  - Roy started playing for the Philadelphia Stars in 1936. Unfortunately we have only six (6) games for him for the 1937 season.

5. We know Parnell played post season baseball and we only have documentation for a small number of games.
- During his early career in Texas and in the Negro Southern League, Red Parnell **played on numerous championship teams**. Some of these teams were:

| Year | Team                       | League                                     |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1926 | Birmingham Black Barons    | Negro Southern League                      |
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League            |
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Negro Dixie Series Champions               |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana League                     |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Negro Dixie Series Champions               |
| 1931 | Monroe Monarchs            | Negro Southern League                      |
| 1931 | Monroe Monarchs            | Negro Dixie Series Champions               |
| 1932 | Monroe Monarchs            | Negro Southern League                      |
| 1932 | Monroe Monarchs            | Negro Dixie Series Champions               |
| 1932 | Monroe Monarchs            | Louisiana State Colored Baseball Champions |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Southern League (second half)        |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Dixie Series Champions               |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Colored Champions of New Orleans           |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Colored Champions of Louisiana             |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Colored Champions of New Orleans           |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Championship Series vs Chicago             |
| 1937 | Cuidad Trujillo            | Denver Post Championship                   |

Parnell also played for the 1927 Birmingham Black Barons who won the second half of the Negro National League season.

- Red was known for having **excellent base running skills**. With better than average speed, he was adept at taking the extra base when the opportunity presented itself and could steal a base when it was needed. He was also very smart on the base paths and didn't get thrown out for making mental errors in judgment.
- Virtually all the top Negro League players traveled to Latin America or California to play winter baseball on a regular basis. In 1937 Roy Parnell played in the Dominican Republic for Aguilas Cibanaes. This seems to be the only season that Roy played winter ball in Latin America. Roy also never played in the California Winter League.

This raises the obvious question as to **what did Red do during the off-season**. We do know that he barnstormed on a limited basis and played post season baseball but it doesn't appear this would have been enough to support himself before the regular season started.

- Besides being an outstanding player, Parnell also **managed several teams** during his career. From the limited records we currently have on Red's managerial career he posted won-loss records of:

| Year | Team                       | League                                    | Won | Lost | Tie | Pct. |
|------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League           | 67  | 8    | -   | .893 |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana League (1 <sup>st</sup> ) | 30  | 12   | -   | .715 |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana League (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) | 10  | 5    | 1   | .667 |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Championship Series                       | 3   | 4    | 0   | .429 |
| 1931 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana League                    | 22  | 9    | 0   | .710 |
| 1931 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Non-League Games                          | 4   | 1    | 0   | .800 |
| 1932 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Independent                               | 3   | 3    | 0   | .500 |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Southern League                     | 24  | 19   | 0   | .558 |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Non-League Games                          | 22  | 5    | 1   | .815 |

**Managerial Won-Loss Record (continued)**

| Year  | Team                       | League                | Won | Lost | Tie | Pct. |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| 1933  | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Championship Series   | 14  | 6    | 0   | .700 |
| 1934  | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Southern League | 8   | 7    | 0   | .533 |
| 1934  | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Non-League Games      | 18  | 10   | 4   | .643 |
| 1934  | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Championship Series   | 2   | 1    | 0   | .667 |
| 1940  | Philadelphia Stars         | Negro National League | 6   | 8    | 0   | .429 |
| 1941  | Philadelphia Stars         | Negro National League | 3   | 13   | 0   | .188 |
| Total |                            |                       | 236 | 111  | 6   | .680 |

The records presented in the preceding chart are not considered complete.

As a manager, Roy Parnell led several of his teams to championships. Some of these were as follows:

| Year | Team                       | League - Championship                         |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League               |
| 1929 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Negro Dixie Series Champions                  |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Texas-Louisiana League                        |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Negro Dixie Series Champions                  |
| 1930 | Houston Black Buffaloes    | Championship vs Chicago American Giants       |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Southern League (second half of season) |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Colored Champions of New Orleans              |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Colored Champions of Louisiana                |
| 1933 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Negro Dixie Series                            |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Colored Champions of New Orleans              |
| 1934 | New Orleans Crescent Stars | Championship vs Chicago American Giants       |

- In 1932 Chester A. Washington of the Pittsburgh Courier interviewed Cumberland Posey of the Homestead Grays and asked him to name an **All American Negro League team**. When the all-star team was announced in the November 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pittsburgh Courier, Roy “Red” Parnell was Posey’s selection as his right fielder. Posey had the following to say about Parnell’s playing ability:

“Parnell has not the aim of some of the other outfielders but his bat and base running rates him over the others.”

- Reportedly, Roy Parnell had an **excessive drinking problem** his entire career. If this is indeed true, alcoholism would have had to have had a negative effect on his physical capabilities and playing career. This raises the question that if Red had not had a drinking problem how good could he have really been?
- When the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown decided to consider adding more former Negro League players to the Hall of Fame in 2006, Roy Parnell made the **initial list of sixty (60) ball players considered for induction**.

Unfortunately, he didn’t make the final list for induction. From this researcher’s perspective, the committee voting on the players to be inducted didn’t have nearly the amount of information we have now. If they had the research that we have presented in this book, the result for his consideration for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame may have been significantly different.



### **Selected Career Highlights**

- Roy “Red” Parnell finished his professional baseball career with a .344 batting average with a .519 slugging percentage in Negro League games and a .342 batting average with a .518 slugging percentage in games against all levels of competition.
- He was a member of the 1926 Birmingham Black Barons team that won the Negro Southern League championship.
- During the 1927 season Roy Parnell batted .417 with a .639 slugging percentage for the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro National League.
- In 1929 Roy Parnell led the Houston Black Buffaloes to the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League championship.
- As the player/manager of the 1930 Houston Black Buffaloes to the Texas-Louisiana League championship title.
- Parnell had the best season of his career while playing with the Monroe Monarchs of the Negro Southern League in 1932. He ended the regular season leading the “league” in the following eight (8) offensive categories: hits (58), total bases (88), runs scored (40), doubles (10), triples (10), runs batted in (23), batting average (.384) and slugging percentage (.801).
- During his career in the Negro Southern League, Red Parnell played on the following championship teams: Birmingham Black Baron (1926), Nashville Elite Giants (1931), Monroe Monarchs (1932) and New Orleans Crescent Stars (1933 - second half of the season).
- Parnell led his Monroe Monarchs team to the Negro Dixie Series championship in 1932 over the Austin Black Senators. The Monroe Monarchs were also the Louisiana State Colored Baseball Champions for the 1932 season.
- Red managed the New Orleans Crescent Stars to the Negro Dixie Series championship in 1933.
- He was selected to play in both the 1934 and 1939 East-West All Star games.
- Parnell was selected to represent the Nashville Elite Giants in the inaugural North-South All Star game that was played in October of 1934.
- He was a member to the Ciudad Trujillo team that won the 1937 Denver Post Tournament championship.
- Roy Parnell played on at least seventeen (17) championship teams during his career.
- Roy “Red” Parnell also excelled as a manager. Current research credits Red with a won-loss record of 236-111-6 (.680). He also led his teams to eleven (11) championship titles during his managerial career.
- During and after his career, Roy Parnell never received the credit that his play on the field warranted. He is truly a “Forgotten Hero.”

**Philadelphia Stars**  
Negro National League  
1939

Roy “Red” Parnell played for Ed Bolden’s Philadelphia Stars from 1936 through the 1943 season.



**Philadelphia Stars**  
1939

(Standing left to right – Henry Miller, Ernest “Spoon” Carter, Bill Perkins, Henry McHenry, **Ed Bolden**, **Chet Brewer**, Samuel “Sad Sam” Thompson, Bill Deck, Unknown, Tom Evans and Rocky Ellis.

Kneeling left to right – **Webster McDonald**, Clyde Spearman, **Jud Wilson**, Unknown, Jake Dunn, Unknown, Gene Benson, **Roy “Red” Parnell** and Unknown.)