

“Colored Championship” Series

Over the course of the history of black baseball in the United States, there has always been the need for there to be a “number one” team or to have a “champion” of colored baseball. Championship series in colored baseball have been played as long as there have been two teams to vie for the distinction and title of being the “Champion of Colored Baseball.”

It is important not to confuse a “Colored Championship” with a Negro League World Series Champion. Many if not most “Colored Championship” series were played between two self appointed teams, while the Negro League World Series was played against the champions from two different formalized leagues. From 1924 to 1927 the Negro League World Series was a post season championship series that was played between the Negro National League champions and the Eastern Colored League champions. Then in latter years, there was also a Negro League World Series played from 1942 to 1948 when the champions of the Negro American League (NAL) met the champions of the Negro National League (NNL).

The following summaries represent some (definitely not all) of the “Colored Championship” series that have been played over the years.

“Colored Championship” Series (1920-1931) (Summaries)

1920 Brooklyn Royal Giants vs Cuban Stars

In late September of 1920 the Brooklyn Giants net the Cuban Stars of Havana in a three game series to declare the “Colored World’s Championship.” The series was played in Washington, D.C. at Griffith Park.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants were led by the hitting of John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (SS), Eddie Douglas (1B), Irvin Brooks (OF) and Louis Miller (3B). The pitching staff for Brooklyn included Jesse Hubbard, Kenneth “Ping” Gardner, Harry Kenyon and Roy Roberts.

The Cuban Stars of Havana were led offensively by Pelayo Chacon (SS) and Ramiro Ramirez (CF). Juan Padron and Isidro Fabre anchored the Cuban Stars pitching staff.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants won two of the three games to take home the title.

“Colored World’s Championship” - Brooklyn Royal Giants

1920 Brooklyn Royal Giants vs Hilldale

During the 1920 baseball season, there was no normal league in the East. The top teams in the East during the 1920 baseball season were the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Baltimore Black Sox, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars, Hilldale and the New York Lincoln Giants.

In October, the Brooklyn Royal Giants and Hilldale played a four game series in the Philadelphia area to name a “Colored Champion of the East.” The Brooklyn Royal Giants were led by player-manager John Henry “Pop” Lloyd. Besides Lloyd, the team had Eddie Douglass (first base) and Beattie Brooks (second base) and Jess Hubbard (pitcher and utility) as their top hitters. Jess Hubbard, Juan Padrone and Roy “Big Boy” Roberts were the top pitchers of Lloyd’s staff.

Hilldale had a strong team that included Toussaint Allen, Jess Barbour, Otto Briggs, Chaney White, and Louis Santo. Brodie Francis, player-manager for Hilldale, also had an excellent pitching staff that included Phil Cockrell, Pud Flournoy, Connie Rector and Dick Whitworth.

Games one and two of the series were pitching duels between Jess Hubbard (Brooklyn) and Connie Rector (Hilldale) in game one and Jess Hubbard and Phil Cockrell in game two. Both games ended in a tie. The score in game one was 1-1 and game two ended in a 2-2 tie. Hilldale went into game three with five members of their starting lineup injured. In game three Hilldale was forced to use four pitchers in the field. Behind Louis Santop’s three hits and a strong pitching performance by Connie Rectos, Hilldale defeated Brooklyn in game three by a score of 6-3. Pud Flournoy closed out the series by pitching Hilldale to a 3-1 victory over Brooklyn in game four of the series. The victory gave Hilldale the “Colored Championship of the East.”

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 2 nd	Tie	1-1	-	-
2	Darby	Oct 13 th	Tie	2-2	-	-
3	Darby	Oct 14 th	Hilldale	6-3	Connie Rector	Juan Padrone
4	Darby	Oct 15 th	Hilldale	3-1	Pud Flournoy	Roy Roberts

Top Hitters for the Series:

Brooklyn – Jess Hubbard (.429) and John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.267).

Hilldale – Brodie Francis (.375), Louis Santop (.375) and Otto Briggs (.333).

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Brooklyn – Roy Roberts (0-1, w/ 1.00 ERA) and Jess Hubbard (0-0 w/ 1.35 ERA).

Hilldale – Connie Rector (1-0 w/ 1.80 ERA), Phil Cockrell (0-0 w/ 2.00 ERA) and Pud Flournoy (1-0 w/ 3.00 ERA).

“Colored Champions of the East” – Hilldale

1921 Atlantic City Bacharach Giants vs Hilldale

Even though there was no formal league in the East, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants met Hilldale at the end of the 1921 baseball season to determine which team was the “Champion of the East.” The four game championship series was played in late September.

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were managed by Dick “Cannonball” Redding. Their line-up boasted four of the top five hitters in the East for the 1921 baseball season. These players were Dick Lundy (.361), Dennis Graham (.351), Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle (.299) and George Shively (.299). Dick Redding (15-11) was considered one of the best pitchers in the East. The Bacharach Giants also had Red Ryan (7-4), Harold Treadwell (5-2), Jesse “Nip” Winters and Hosely “Scrip” Lee on their pitching staff.

Hilldale was led by the hitting of Louis Santop (.354), Brodie Francis (.297), Connie Rector (.286), George Johnson (.277) and Chaney White (.270). Phil Cockrell (10-5), Dick Whitworth (7-4), Connie Rector (5-2) and Pud Flournoy (4-4) anchored the pitching staff for Hilldale.

Game one was played in Philadelphia on September 23rd. Atlantic City jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on a three run homerun by Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle. Atlantic City held on the rest of the way to post a 4-3 victory. Hilldale came back to take game two by a score of 4-1. Dick Redding, player-manager for Atlantic City, put himself on the mound to start game three of the series and defeated Hilldale by a score of 4-3. Game four of the series was a slugfest that saw Hilldale score six runs in the top of the first inning and Atlantic City come back to score five runs in the bottom of the first. Hilldale eventually won the game by a score of 8-6 to tie the series at two games apiece. For some unknown reason, no tie breaker was ever played.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Sept 23 rd	Atlantic City	4-3	Dick Redding	Phil Cockrell
2	Philadelphia	Sept 24 th	Hilldale	4-1	Dick Whitworth	Nip Winters
3	Brooklyn	Sept 25 th	Atlantic City	4-3	Dick Redding	Phil Cockrell
4	Brooklyn	Unknown	Hilldale	8-6	Pud Flournoy	W. Reavis

Top Hitters for the Series:

Atlantic City – Oliver Marcelle (.400), Jess Barbour (.357) and Sam Mongin (.300).
Hilldale – George Johnson (.400), Jim York (.375) and Toussaint Allen (.313).

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Atlantic City – Dick Redding (2-0 w/ 3.00 ERA).
Hilldale – Dick Whitworth (1-0 w/ 1.00 ERA), Phil Cockrell (0-2 w/ 4.24 ERA) and Pud Flournoy (1-0 w/ 9.00 ERA).

“Colored Champions of the East” – No champion, series ended in a 2-2 tie.

1921 Montgomery Grey Sox vs Wilson's Elite Giants

The Montgomery Grey Sox met Wilson's Elite Giants in Nashville for a four game series to determine the "Southern Colored Champions." The Elite Giants swept the Grey Sox in four straight games by the scores of 2-1, 3-2, 2-1 and 3-1.

"Southern Colored Champions" - Wilson's Elite Giants

1921 Chicago American Giants vs Atlantic City Bacharach Giants Chicago American Giants vs Hilldale

Rube Foster took his Chicago American Giants team back East in late September to play a championship series against the two top teams (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale) in the East.

The Chicago American Giants had just come off winning their second straight Negro National League title. Rube Foster built his team around pitching and team speed. Cristobal Torriente (.346) was the team's top hitter. Chicago's pitching staff was anchored by Tom Williams (15-7), Dave Brown (11-3), Jack Marshall (8-3), Bill Holland and Tom Johnson.

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale had finished the season as the top two teams in the East. Atlantic City was led by the hitting of Dick Lundy (.361) and the pitching of Dick "Cannonball" Redding (15-11). Louis Santop (.346) was the top hitter for Hilldale, while Phil Cockrell (10-5) was the ace of the pitching staff. Hilldale In late September they had a Playoff Series to crown a champion of the East. The Playoff Series ended with each team winning two games. A tie breaker was never played.

The rosters for the three teams playing in the "Colored Championship" series were as follows:

	Chicago American Giants	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Hilldale
1B	Leroy Grant	Zack Pettus	Toussaint Allen
2B	Bingo De Moss	Bill Handy	Bunny Downs
SS	Bobby Williams	Dick Lundy	Judy Johnson
3B	Dave Malarcher	Oliver Marcelle	Brodie Francis
C	George Dixon	Julio Rojo	Louis Santop
OF	Cristobal Torriente	Jess Barbour	George Johnson
OF	Jelly Gardner	George Shively	Chaney White
OF	Jimmie Lyons	Country Brown	Otto Briggs
P	Tom Williams	Dick Redding	Phil Cockrell
P	Dave Brown	Harold Treadwell	Dick Whitworth
P	Bill Holland	Stringbean Williams	Pud Flournoy
P	Jack Marshall	Jesse "Nip" Winters	Connie Rector
P	Tom Johnson	Ping Gardner	Henry Gillespie

The Chicago American Giants opened their first series against the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants on September 30th in New York City.

1921 Chicago American Giants vs Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

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

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

1921 Chicago American Giants vs Hilldale

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

Hilldale won the series three games to two for the Chicago American Giants with one game ending in a tie.

“Colored Champions” - Hilldale

1922 Chicago American Giants vs Bacharach Giants of New York

When the 1922 baseball season ended, the Chicago American Giants won the Negro National League title for the third straight year. Cristobal Torriente (.393) and John Beckwith (.303) were the leading hitters for the American Giants. Dave Brown (16-7), Juan Padrone (14-11), Dick Whitworth (11-10) and Huck Rile (10-4) were the team’s top pitchers. Like in year’s past, Rube Foster’s team won games with pitching, timely hitting and team speed.

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Bacharach Giants of New York, Baltimore Black Sox, Hilldale and New York Lincoln Giants were the top teams in the East during the 1922 baseball season.

At the end of the season, the Bacharach Giants of New York were selected to play the Chicago American Giants for the “Colored Championship.” New York was managed by John Henry “Pop” Lloyd. Dick Redding was the ace pitcher of their staff. The leading hitters for the team were Elias “Country” Brown (.372), George Shively (.330) and John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.310). Redding, Roy “Big Boy” Roberts, Jesse “Nip” Winters and Harold Treadwell made up the starting pitching rotation.

The Bacharach Giants traveled to Chicago in mid September to take on the American Giants. The starting lineups for both teams were:

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

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

Game five of the series was without a doubt the most exciting game to have ever been played in "Colored Championship" or Negro League World Series history. Each team had back to back victories. New York had won games one and two, while Chicago won games three and four. Huck Rile took the mound for the American Giants and Harold Treadwell was the starting pitcher for the Bacharach Giants. Rile pitched six strong scoreless innings before giving way to Dave Brown in the seventh. Treadwell and matched Rile each other with six scoreless innings. The game was now in the hands of Brown and Treadwell. They hooked up for a pitching duel that went into the bottom of the 20th inning with neither team having scored a run. Treadwell had still been perfect on the mound and Dave Brown had pitched 14 innings of shutout innings in relief. In the bottom of the 20th inning, Torriente walked and was sacrificed to second by Bobby Williams. Dave Malarcher drove in Torriente with the only run of the day. After a 20 inning pitching battle, the Chicago American Giants had a 1-0 victory and another "Colored Championship." A sad side note to the game is that New York pitcher Harold Treadwell had pitched 19 innings of shutout ball before giving up the lone run of the game in the 20th inning.

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

Top Hitters for the Series:

Chicago – Dave Malarcher (.364), Leroy Grant (.316) and John Beckwith (.250).
New York – Elias “Country” Brown (.342), Julio Rojo (.261) and Oliver Marcelle (.250).

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Chicago – Dave Brown (2-0 w/ 0.82 ERA) and Dick Whitworth (1-0).
New York – Harold Treadwell (1-1 w/ 1.24 ERA) and Jesse “Nip” Winters (1-1 w/ 5.20 ERA).

“Colored Champions of the World” - Chicago American Giants

1929 Kansas City Monarchs vs Houston Black Buffaloes

No Negro League World Series between the Negro National League and the American Negro League was held in 1929.

The Kansas City Monarchs had won the 1929 Negro National League title with a record of 62-17 (.785) finishing 9 ½ games ahead of the second place St. Louis Stars. The Monarchs wished to play a post season series and chose the Houston Black Buffaloes as their opponent. The Houston Black Buffaloes had won both halves of the Texas-Oklahoma-Louisiana League with a won-loss record of 67-8 (.893) and were eager to prove that they could compete with the best black baseball teams in the country. A victory over the Negro National League champions would give Houston Black Buffaloes national recognition.

Kansas City brought a strong squad to Houston to play the series. The Monarchs were led by the hitting of T.J. Young (.361), Frank Duncan (.346), Lacey Taylor (.346), Bullet Rogan (.325), L.D. Livingston (.320), Hallie Harding (.292) and Newt Allen (.284). As good as a hitting team as the Monarchs were, their pitching staff was even better. The Kansas City pitching staff included Chet Brewer (17-3), William Bell (17-4), Alfred “Army” Cooper (14-4) and Andy Cooper (13-3).

The first game of the series was played on September 21st at West End Park in Houston. The Black Buffaloes were not intimidated by the Monarchs pitching staff and responded with 12 runs in game one. Unfortunately for Houston, the Monarchs collected 27 hits in the game and scored 15 runs off the Black Buffaloes top pitchers. The Kansas City Monarchs also took the next three games by scores of 3-2, 6-1 and 10-1. The Monarchs swept the Black Buffaloes in four straight and were declared the “Colored World’s Champions” by the Texas black press.

“Colored World’s Champions” - Kansas City Monarchs

1929 Chicago American Giants vs Homestead Grays

In October of 1929 the Homestead Grays traveled to Chicago (IL) to play the Chicago American Giants in their own post season tournament.

The Chicago American Giants had played the 1929 season in the Negro National League and had finished in third place with a record of 49-40 (.551). The Kansas City Monarchs won the NNL title with a record of 62-17 (.785) and the St. Louis Stars finished in second place with a record of 59-33 (.641). Even though they only finished in third place, Chicago still had a very strong team that was led by the hitting of Pythian Russ (.386), Jelly Gardner (.307), Sandy Thompson (.289)

and Larry Brown (.286). Bill Foster (brother of Rube Foster) who had a won-loss record of 15-10 was the ace of the pitching staff. Frog Hosley (10-4) and Yellow Horse Morris rounded out the starting rotation. The Chicago American Giants added Mule Suttles (St. Louis Stars), Willie Wells (St. Louis Stars) and James “Cool Pappa” Bell (St. Louis Star) to their roster for the series against the Grays.

The Homestead Grays played the 1929 season in the American Negro League (ANL) and also had played a very successful independent schedule during the season. The Grays finished in third place behind the Baltimore Black Sox (49-21) and New York Lincoln Giants (40-26) with an ANL record of 34-29 (.540). The Homestead Grays had an exceptionally strong hitting line-up that included seven regulars who hit over .300 for the season. They were: John Beckwith (.439), Oscar Owens (.389), Jasper “Jap” Washington (.378), Vic Harris (.350), Rev Cannady (.337), Buck Ewing (.333) and Dennis Graham (.304). Homestead also had an excellent pitching staff that was anchored by Sam Streeter (14-6), Smoky Joe Williams (8-2) and Lefty Williams (7-5). To strengthen their squad for the Chicago series, the Grays picked up Oscar Charleston (Hilldale), Clint Thomas (Bacharach Giants) and George Scales (New York Lincoln Giants).

The starting rosters during the regular season for the two teams were as follows:

Chicago American Giants		Homestead Grays	
Steel Arm Davis	1B	Jap Washington	1B
Saul Davis	2B	Mo Harris	2B
Pythian Russ	SS	Rev Cannady	SS
Harry Jefferies	3B	John Beckwith	3B
Larry Brown	C	Buck Ewing	C
Sandy Thompson	OF	Vic Harris	OF
Jelly Gardner	OF	Dennis Graham	OF
Jim Brown	OF	Oscar Owens	OF
Bill Foster	P	Sam Streeter	P
Frog Hosley	P	Smokey Joe Williams	P
Webster McDonald	P	Charles “Lefty” Williams	P
Ted Radcliffe	P	George Britt	P

Even with Oscar Charleston, Clint Thomas and George Scales in their line-up; the powerful Homestead Grays hitters were no match for the Chicago American Giants pitching staff. The American Giants took the series in five straight games. Four of the games were shutouts by scores of 1-0, 1-0, 6-0 and 7-0.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Chicago	Oct 7 th	Chicago	1-0	Webster McDonald	Sam Streeter
2	Chicago	Oct 8 th	Chicago	1-0	Bill Foster	Smoky Joe Williams
3	Chicago	Oct 8 th	Chicago	6-0	Ted Radcliffe	Lefty Williams
4	Chicago	Oct 9 th	Chicago	14-9	Ted Radcliffe	Lefty Williams
5	Chicago	Oct 10 th	Chicago	7-0	Webster Mc Donald	Sam Streeter

Charlie Williams who filled in for Pythian Russ at shortstop for the Chicago American Giants led the series in hitting with a .692 batting average (9 for 13). Willie Wells (Chicago) batted an even .500 (6 for 12). Oscar Charleston was the only Grays hitter to produce (.462 - 6 for 13) for the series. Webster McDonald and Ted Radcliffe each had two wins for the Chicago American Giants’ pitching staff.

**“Series Champion” - Chicago American Giants
1930 Homestead Grays vs New York Lincoln Giants**

The American Negro League (ANL) had folded after their 1929 season, leaving no formal league in the East for the 1930 baseball season. Even though there was no formal league there were still several very strong teams that played the 1930 season on an independent schedule basis. The top teams in the East during 1930 were the Baltimore Black Sox, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars, Hilldale, Homestead Grays and New York Lincoln Giants.

In September of 1930 the Homestead Grays and New York Lincoln Giants agreed to an eleven (11) game series to crown a “Champion of Colored Baseball in the East.”

Both teams fielded incredibly strong line-ups.

Homestead Grays			New York Lincoln Giants	
1B	Oscar Charleston	.337	John Henry “Pop” Lloyd	.434
2B	George Scales	.316	Rev Cannady	.269
SS	Jake Stephens	.349	John Riggins	.333
3B	Judy Johnson	.250	John Beckwith	.493
C	Josh Gibson	.267	Julio Rojo	.294
OF	Vic Harris	.341	Clint Thomas	.437
OF	Chaney White	.312	Fats Jenkins	.333
OF	Bill Evans	.240	Charles “Chino” Smith	.492
P	Smoky Joe Williams	7-2	Bill Holland	10-5
P	George Britt	3-0	Red Farrell	9-1
P	Sam Cooper	3-0	Connie Rector	3-1
P	Lefty Williams	2-0	Red Ryan	2-0

The Homestead Grays behind the strong pitching of Lefty Williams took game one of the series by a score of 9-1. Vic Harris and George Scales each had three hits in the game. Game two was a slugfest that ended in a 17-16 victory in ten innings for the Grays. Josh Gibson led the Grays hitting attack with a homerun and triple. Bill Holland, the ace of the New York Lincoln Giants pitching staff, got the Lincoln Giants back in the series with a 6-2 victory in game three over Smoky Joe Williams. Homestead took game four with a 3-2 victory in ten innings. Behind the pitching of Smoky Joe Williams and a homerun by Josh Gibson, Homestead won game five a by a score of 11-3. Faced with a must win situation in game six, the New York Lincoln Giants won the sixth game by a score of 6 to 4. Games seven and eight were a played as double header in Yankee Stadium in New York City. The Lincoln Giants scored four runs in the bottom of the ninth to defeat the Grays 9-8 and reduce the Grays lead to one game. It was in game seven that Josh Gibson hit one of the longest homeruns of his career. Judy Johnson (Homestead Grays third baseman) remembered the homerun going over the roof and completely out of the stadium. Bill Holland (New York Lincoln Giants) recalled that the ball went between the roof and the third tier and hit the back of the bullpen. Larry Brown (New York Lincoln Giants) said the ball went over the roof and hit the back of the bullpen two feet from the top of the wall. Regardless of who we believe, the ball traveled at least 505 feet from home plate. The Homestead Grays came back in the second game of the doubleheader and won it by a score of 7-3 for a 5 games to 3 games lead over New York. Games nine and ten were played as a doubleheader in Yankee Stadium on September 28th. Bill Holland led the New York Lincoln Giants to a 6-2 victory in game nine. In the second game of the double header, Homestead scored four runs in the top of the last inning for a 5-2 victory. With their victory in game ten, the Homestead Grays claimed the “Colored

Championship of the East.” Homestead never played the St. Louis Stars who were the champions of the Negro National League.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Pittsburgh	Sept 20 th	Homestead	9-1	Lefty Williams	Claude Hannibal
2	Pittsburgh	Sept 20 th	Homestead	17-16	Oscar Owens	Connie Rector
3	Philadelphia	Sept 21 st	New York	6-2	Bill Holland	Smoky Joe Williams
4	Philadelphia	Sept 21 st	Homestead	3-2	George Britt	Red Farrell
5	Philadelphia	Sept 25 th	Homestead	11-3	Smoky Joe Williams	Bill Holland
6	Philadelphia	Sept 26 th	New York	6-4	Red Ryan	George Britt
7	New York	Sept 27 th	New York	9-8	Connie Rector	Smoky Joe Williams
8	New York	Sept 27 th	Homestead	7-3	Sam Cooper	Connie Rector
9	New York	Sept 28 th	New York	6-2	Bill Holland	Smoky Joe Williams
10	New York	Sept 28 th	Homestead	5-2	George Britt	Bill Holland

Top Hitters for the Series:

Homestead – Vic Harris (.436), George Scales (.400), Josh Gibson (.368) and Happy Evans (.286)
 New York – Larry Brown (.385), John Henry Lloyd (.375), Fats Jenkins (.357) and Rev Cannady (.323).

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Homestead – George Britt (2-1), Lefty Williams (1-0), Sam Cooper (1-0) and Oscar Owens (1-0).
 New York – Bill Holland (2-2), Red Ryan (1-0) and Connie Rector (1-2).

“Colored Champion of the East” – Homestead Grays

1931 Nashville Elite Giants vs Monroe Monarchs

After the 1931 season the Nashville Elite Giants, champions of the Negro Southern League, met the Monroe Monarchs, champions of the Texas-Louisiana League, in what was promoted as the Dixie Series.

The Nashville Elite Giants won the Negro Southern League title with a record of 22-11 (.667). They were led by the pitching of “Big Jim” Willis, Dick Cannon and Henry “Red” Wright.

The Monroe Monarchs were the unofficial farm team for the Kansas City Monarchs. The Monarchs had dominated play in the Texas-Louisiana League and had won the league title with a record of 29-8 (.784) during the 1931 season. Monroe was led by the hitting of Leroy Morney (shortstop) and Zollie Wright (outfield). Both Morney and Wright would go on to star in the Negro Leagues for over ten years each.

Game one of the Dixie Series took place on September 2nd in Nashville, Tennessee. Game one turned out to be a real pitching duel between “Big Jim” Willis (Nashville) and Bob Sloan (Monroe). The two ace pitchers hooked up for 12 innings of shut out baseball until Nashville scored the lone run of the game in the bottom of the 12th inning on hits by Nish Williams, Granville Lyons and Lenon Henderson.

Nashville won also won game two to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the series. However, the Monroe Monarchs came back and won four of the next five games to win the Dixie Series four games to three for the Elite Giants.

“Dixie Series Champions” - Monroe Monarchs

1931 Homestead Grays vs Kansas City Monarchs

The Homestead Grays and Kansas City Monarchs met in 1931 to determine the “Colored Championship.” Interestingly enough both teams played the 1931 baseball season schedule on an independent basis. The Monarchs were Associate Members of the Negro National League.

The Kansas City Monarchs were managed by Wilber “Bullet” Rogan. During the season, the Monarchs were led by the hitting of Newt Allen, John Donaldson, Frank Duncan, Newt Joseph, Turkey Stearnes and Tom “T.J.” Young. Kansas City’s pitching staff was anchored by Charlie Beverly, Alfred “Army” Cooper, Andy Cooper, Bill Foster and Henry Mc Henry.

The Homestead Grays had one of the best teams in the history of black baseball during the 1931 seasons. They had seven players (Ray Brown, Oscar Charleston, Bill Foster, Josh Gibson, Willie Wells, Smokey Joe Williams and Jud Wilson) who would be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Homestead was managed by Oscar Charleston who also played first base. During the regular season, the Grays were led by the hitting of Jud Wilson (.352), Ted Page (.344), Oscar Charleston (.341), George Scales (.339), Ray Brown (.314) and Josh Gibson (.308). The pitching staff was led by Big Bill Foster (12-2), Smokey Joe Williams (10-6), Charles “Lefty” Williams (9-3), Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (9-6) and George Britt (6-2).

The two teams starting line-ups for the “Colored Championship” series were as follows:

Homestead Grays		Kansas City Monarchs	
Cumberland Posey	Mgr	Wilber “Bullet” Rogan	Mgr
Oscar Charleston	1B	Chick “Popsickle” Harris	1B
George Scales	2B	Dink Mothell	2B
Jake Stephens	SS	Newt Allen	SS
Jud Wilson	3B	Newt Joseph	3B
Josh Gibson	C	Frank Duncan	C
Ted Page	OF	Tom Young	C
Bill “Happy” Evans	OF	John Donaldson	OF
Vic Harris	OF	William “Nat” Rogers	OF
Big Bill Foster	P	Turkey Stearnes	OF
George Britt		P Charlie Beverly	P
Ray Williams	P	Andy Cooper	P
Charles “Lefty” Williams	P	Henry McHenry	P
Ted Radcliffe	P	Chet Brewer	P
Smokey Joe Williams	P		

Kansas City opened the series in Akron (OH) with a 6-5 win over the Grays. Homeruns by Oscar Charleston and Josh Gibson had given the Grays an early 4-1 lead, but Charlie Beverly helped his own cause when he tied the game in the seventh with a double. The Grays undoing in the game was committing an unprecedented nine errors. Homestead came back and won the next two games in Pittsburgh with incredible hitting and strong pitching. The Grays won these two games by scores of 9-3 and 8-1. Games four and five were a doubleheader that was played in Cleveland (OH). Homestead’s strong hitting and outstanding pitching from the previous two games carried over to the first game of the doubleheader as the Grays downed the Monarchs by a score of 9-1 to take a 3-1 lead in the series. Charlie Beverly took the mound for Kansas City in the second game of the doubleheader in Cleveland. This was a must win situation for the Monarchs. Beverly

quieted the Grays bats and led the Monarchs to an 8-1 victory. Game six was a real pitching duel between Big Bill Foster (Homestead) and a trio of Monarchs pitchers (Cooper, Brewer and Beverly). Homestead prevailed 2-1 in a game that was called after seven innings due to darkness. The series moved to Kansas City (MO) for game seven of the series. In a hard fought battle, the Monarchs did not disappoint their hometown fans and pulled out an 8-7 victory with Charlie Beverly coming into the game in the eighth inning to shut down the Homestead hitters. With a victory in game seven, Kansas City had reduced the Grays lead to one game in the series (Homestead led 4 games to 3 after the first seven games). The last two games (eight and nine) were played as a doubleheader in Kansas City on September 13th. Two errors by Kansas City cost them a 7-5 victory and allowed Homestead to clinch the pennant. Big Bill Foster (Grays) picked up the win and Chet Brewer (Monarchs) took his second loss of the series. Game nine was merely a formality of finishing the double header. The Monarchs had a 4-1 lead going into the sixth inning when Homestead erupted for six unanswered runs. The game was called after seven innings with the Homestead Grays claiming the “Colored Championship.”

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Akron (OH)	Aug 28 th	Kansas City	6-5	Charlie Beverly	Joe Williams
2	Pittsburgh	Aug 29 th	Homestead	9-3	Bill Foster	Chet Brewer
3	Pittsburgh	Aug 29 th	Homestead	8-1	Ray Williams	Andy Cooper
4	Cleveland	Aug 30 th	Homestead	9-1	Lefty Williams	Henry McHenry
5	Cleveland	Aug 30 th	Kansas City	8-1	Charlie Beverly	Ted Radcliffe
6	Canton (OH)	Sept 1 st	Homestead	2-1	Bill Foster	Andy Cooper
7	Kansas City	Sept 13 th	Kansas City	8-7	Andy Cooper	Lefty Williams
8	Kansas City	Sept 14 th	Homestead	7-5	Bill Foster	Chet Brewer
9	Kansas City	Sept 14 th	Homestead	8-4	George Britt	Charlie Beverly

Top Hitters for the Series:

Homestead – Oscar Charleston (.511), Happy Evans (.409), Ted Radcliffe (.400), Jud Wilson (.393), George Scales (.355), John Jones (.333), and Jake Stephens (.286)
 Kansas City – Tom Young (.402), Newt Allen (.368), Chick “Popsickle” Harris (.360), Newt Joseph (.308), and Dink Mothell (.294).

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Homestead – Big Bill Foster (3-0 w/ 3.24 ERA), George Britt (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA), Ray Williams (1-0 w/ 1.00 ERA) and Lefty Williams (1-1 w/ 4.76 ERA).
 Kansas City – Charlie Beverly (2-1 w/ 4.32 ERA) and Andy Cooper (1-2 w/ 6.86 ERA).

“Colored Champions” - Homestead Grays