

Formation of the Negro American League

On October 10, 1936 several baseball executives met in Indianapolis, Indiana to discuss the possibility of forming a “new” league to rival the Negro National League. The meeting was held at the YMCA on Senate Avenue in Indianapolis.

Baseball executives who attended the meeting in Indianapolis were:

Executive	Team
A.M. Walker	Birmingham Black Barons
H.G. Hall	Chicago American Giants
DeHart Hubbard	Cincinnati Tigers
A.G. Titus	Detroit
Joseph Johnson	Indianapolis
G.C. Watkins	Indianapolis
J.L. Wilkinson	Kansas City Monarchs
Dr. B.B. Martin	Memphis Red Sox
Dizzy Dismukes	St. Louis

The Indianapolis Recorder reported on the meeting in their October 17, 1936 edition.

The meeting held in Indianapolis was so positive that on February 20 and 21, 1937 a follow-up meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois to form the Negro American League.

Baseball executives who attended the meeting in Chicago were:

Executive	Team
A.M. Walker	Birmingham Black Barons
H.G. Hall	Chicago American Giants
James Titus	Detroit Stars
G.C. Watkins	Indianapolis Athletics
J.L. Wilkinson	Kansas City Monarchs
Dr. B.B. Martin	Memphis Red Sox
Henry L. Moore	St. Louis Stars

Also attending the meeting were Robert R. Jackson, Al Monroe (sportswriter) and Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (player/manager).

Robert R. Jackson was elected as the Negro American League President and Al Monroe was elected as Negro American League Secretary at the two day meeting in Chicago.

DeHart Hubbard has been given the credit for doing most of the organizational work for the “league” and writing the Negro American League constitution.

Negro American League - Inaugural Season

The Negro American League season opened on May 8th and was split into two halves.

The teams that competed in the inaugural season of the Negro American League and the final order of standing were as follows:

1937	Manager	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	Andy Cooper	27	19-8	.704
Chicago American Giants	Candy Jim Taylor	26	18-8	.692
Cincinnati Tigers	Ted Radcliffe	26	15-11	.577
Memphis Red Sox	Homer "Goose" Curry	26	13-13	.500
Detroit Stars	Dimples Miller	27	12-15	.444
Birmingham Black Barons	A.M. Walker	27	10-17	.370
Indianapolis Athletics	Sam Crawford	27	9-18	.333
St. Louis Stars	Dizzy Dismukes	27	5-22	.185

Note: Records are for the first half of the season only. The Kansas City Monarchs won both halves of the season and then beat the Chicago American Giants in a special post season Play-Off Series when the American Giants disputed the Monarchs being awarded the Negro American League title. Kansas City won the five game series 3 games to 1 (one game ended in a 2-2 tie).