

Integration of Major League Baseball

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Breaking the Color Barrier

The integration of Major League baseball when Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 did not just magically occur overnight. There were a long series of events that took place over several years that led to Jackie Robinson being signed by the Montreal Royals in 1945.

One of the first of these events took place in 1939 when the Young Communist League of New York circulated a petition to get Major League baseball to integrate. Over 20,000 signatures were collected and copies of the petitions were submitted to Kenesaw Mountain Landis (Major League Baseball Commissioner), Ford Frick (National League President) and William Harridge (American League President). To gauge the reaction of Major League baseball managers to such a strong show of support for blacks being able to play in the Major Leagues, Wendell Smith who was the featured sports reporter for the Pittsburgh Courier polled National League managers and asked them their position on blacks playing in the National League. Only Bill Terry, manager of the New York Giants, said he would not support a black player on his team. Even with apparent public support and the general endorsement of all but one National League manager, this attempt went nowhere. Wendell Smith also polled Major League players to see if they would oppose black players in the National League and if not, which black ball players they thought could play in the Major Leagues. According to Smith, the players he interviewed presented no real objections to blacks playing in the Major Leagues. When National League President Ford Frick was asked to comment on the subject his response was as follows: "This is a complex social barometer of the country." In other words Frick didn't feel public opinion especially in the south would have supported it and he didn't want to take on the issue.

Further indications that Major League baseball was approaching integration can be seen in two stories that appeared in the *New York Times*. On August 20, 1942, the New York Times officially reported that the Pittsburgh Pirates President Bill Benswanger had authorized *Pittsburgh Courier* sports writer Wendell Smith to recommend several Negro League players that the Pirates might want to give a tryout. Wendell Smith recommended the following players: Sam Bankhead (Homestead Grays), Leon Day (Newark Eagles), Josh Gibson (Homestead Grays) and Willie Wells (Newark Eagles). The initial report was that the tryouts would most likely be scheduled after the regular season. The tryouts unfortunately were never scheduled. The second indication came in an October 13, 1942 story in the *New York Times*. In this report William T. Andrews (New York State Assembly) of the Citizens Committee to End Discrimination in Baseball announced his intention to address the issue of integration at the annual winter club owners meeting. The proposal of the Citizens Committee to End Discrimination in Baseball was to pool the best Negro League players with available Major League players to form "new" teams to compete in the 1943 season. The idea never went anywhere and all indications are the proposal was never taken seriously.

One of the first "real" indications that "organized" white Major and Minor League baseball may be close to integrating was a reporting in 1943 that the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League were going to offer tryouts to several Negro League players. Insight into this reporting can be seen in reviewing the transcript of a telephone conversation that was held on April 7, 1943 between Clarence "Pants" Rowland and P.K. Wrigley. The seven-page transcript of this

telephone conversation is housed in the archives of the Chicago History Museum. Rowland worked for the Chicago Cubs overseeing farm teams and was serving as the General Manager of the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League. P.K. Wrigley was the head of the Wm. Jr. Wrigley Company and also the owner of the Chicago Cubs of the National League. The purpose of the conversation was to discuss “the colored situation” as Rowland put it. According to Rowland the situation intensified when newspapers in California reported that Pittsburgh Pirates owner Bill Benswanger made remarks about drafting Negro League players to play in Pittsburgh. When this story broke nationally, Los Angeles newspaper reporter Hallie Harding (who had also played in the Negro Leagues from 1926-1931) went to the Los Angeles City Council and convinced the City Council to adopt a policy against discrimination in baseball. Rowland was convinced that the integration of baseball was near, but wanted Wrigley’s insight in how to deal with the pressures he was facing in Los Angeles. Up to the time of this conversation, Rowland’s response to the growing public pressures was to basically put it off by taking the position that the organization didn’t discriminate against anyone and at this time the organization didn’t have any openings for “colored” ball players. Wrigley’s response to Rowland was as follows:

“Yes, well that is the only way – to face that fact, and I think just make that statement. Now, unfortunately baseball carries publicity that is all out of proportion to its importance, and certainly in the middle of a war when this nation is fighting for its very existence to start a race argument over a very controversial subject is not helping the country any. You’ve got people that are for and people that are against, and God knows they are violent enough in their discussions about baseball without bringing a color question to it. Now, I think it is coming, but if they want it to succeed, certainly the place is not to start where you are going to have complete turmoil over it, and that is what I’ve told them here.”

The net result was that the Chicago Cubs recognized that integration was coming, but chose not to take a leadership role. The tryouts for the black ball players never did materialize. At the last moment the tryouts were cancelled with no reason given. The Negro League players who were supposed to be given a tryout were Chet Brewer (Cleveland Buckeyes), Howard Easterling (Homestead Grays) and Nate Moreland (Baltimore Elite Giants).

The “actual” beginning of the end of Negro League baseball can be traced back to when Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers signed Jackie Robinson of the Kansas City Monarchs to a Major League contract in 1945.

Before Branch Rickey signed Jackie Robinson in 1945, there was a rumored attempt by Bill Veeck to purchase a Major League franchise and field a roster of black players. In addition, there had been two other tryouts by black players with Major League clubs. Both of these tryouts were initiated by pressure from the black community and did not have the support of Major League baseball.

Perhaps the first serious attempt to integrate Major League baseball can be traced back to a rumored attempt by Bill Veeck to buy the Philadelphia Phillies of the National League and field his Major League roster with black players. According to Veeck, he had worked out a deal to buy the Philadelphia Phillies from team owner Gerry Nugent in 1943. Veeck’s plan was to sign Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Roy Campanella, Luke Easter, Monte Irvin and other Negro League stars to play for the Phillies. According to Veeck, Major League Baseball Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis got wind of the plan and killed the deal.

The first tryout of black players came with the Brooklyn Dodgers at their 1945 training camp at Bear Mountain, New York. Joe Bostic, who was sports editor of the black publication the *People's Voice*, showed up at the Dodgers camp with a photographer and two Negro League players. Bostic demanded a tryout for two black players. Terris Mc Duffie (Newark Eagles) and David "Showboat" Thomas (New York Cubans) were the two players that Bostic had brought to represent Negro League baseball. Both players were well past their prime. Terris Mc Duffie was thirty-six (36) and had come off a 4-5 record with the Newark Eagles during the 1944 season. Showboat Thomas was thirty-nine (39) and was a part time player with the New York Cubans. The Dodgers responded with a short tryout before Branch Rickey and Dodgers management. Branch watched the tryout and was not impressed with Mc Duffie or Thomas. The Dodgers did not feel the baseball skills of either player would be good enough to play Major League baseball. Rickey also felt very strongly that neither player had the personality to be the first man to break the "color barrier." While neither Mc Duffie nor Thomas had a prayer of being signed, the event was historically important because it was the first tryout by a black baseball player since Charlie Grant had a tryout in 1901. The puzzling question to this tryout is why Bostic had chosen Mc Duffie and Thomas. Both players were past their prime and their baseball skills had significantly diminished. David "Showboat" Thomas' professional baseball career began in 1923 with the Montgomery Grey Sox. Thomas tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers was twenty-two (22) years after his first year in pro ball. Thomas would close out his professional baseball career in 1946 after playing on a part time basis for the New York Cubans. Terris Mc Duffie started his Negro League career in 1930 with the Birmingham Black Barons. Mc Duffie's Negro League career would end in 1946 after pitching four games for the Newark Eagles. It still remains a mystery why Bostic did not choose younger players with better talent.

The second tryout was in Boston at Fenway Park in 1945. Isadore H.Y. Muchnick, a Boston city councilman, had been pressuring the Boston Braves and Boston Red Sox to add black ball players to their Major League rosters. To get the Braves and Red Sox attention, Muchnick threatened to fight against the Major League clubs' permit to play professional baseball games on Sunday. The teams' inability to play Sunday baseball would have had a significant negative financial impact on both teams. The teams finally agreed to a tryout. Sports writer Wendell Smith of the *Pittsburgh Courier* agreed to help identify the Negro League players for the tryout. Sam Jethroe (outfielder for the Cleveland Buckeyes), Jackie Robinson (infielder for the Kansas City Monarchs) and Marvin Williams (infielder for the Philadelphia Stars) were the three players chosen for the tryout. This time young, talented Negro League ball players were chosen. The tryout was scheduled for Fenway Park in April. Fenway Park was chosen because the Red Sox were out of town on a road trip. Jethroe, Robinson and Williams worked out in front of Red Sox management along with twelve (12) white players. Joe Cronin (Red Sox Manager) and Hugh Duffy (Red Sox Coach) both commented later that they were very impressed with the skills of all three players. After the tryout, the players filled out applications and were told that they would be hearing from the Red Sox. The call never came and the Braves never scheduled a work out. In an interview with Dr. Revel (Center for Negro league Baseball Research), Marvin Williams shared that he knew that the chances of being signed were very slim. But in Williams' own words: "we had to take advantage of the opportunity and it was gratifying to show those white boys that we could play ball."

Branch Rickey was convinced that signing black ball players was in the immediate future for Major League baseball. Rickey also knew that signing the right players was crucial. In an effort to evaluate Negro League baseball talent, Rickey joined with Gus Greenlee to help form the United State League (USL) in May of 1945. John Shackelford was elected as the League President and Gus Greenlee was named the United States League Vice-President. Shackelford had played in the Negro Leagues from 1924 to 1930 with the Cleveland Browns, Harrisburg Giants, Chicago

American Giants and Birmingham Black Barons. After his Negro League career, Shackelford went to Wiley College and after graduation on to the University of Michigan Law School where he received a law degree. Shackelford became a respected attorney in Cleveland. The United States League also provided Greenlee with the opportunity to get back into Negro League baseball. The United States League debuted in 1945 with the following six teams:

United States League (1945)

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

In addition to these six teams, New Orleans and Indianapolis entered the league in 1945 as associate members. As associate members, New Orleans and Indianapolis paid lower franchise fees, but their games did not count in the league standings and they could not play in the all star game nor were eligible for the league world series.

Branch Rickey gave the United States League his total support and worked out a deal whereby United States League games could be played at Ebbetts field when the Brooklyn Dodgers were out of town. It was also rumored that Rickey had provided financial support for the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers franchise. Rickey also had hoped that the United States League (USL) would be recognized by the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs. This acceptance would make USL players eligible to be drafted by Major League baseball teams. This acceptance never came. The first indication that the new league had a significant uphill battle was when only about 2,000 fans showed up for the first USL game in New York City. The contest pitted the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers against the Philadelphia Hilldales and was played on May 24, 1945. Hudson Baker and Stanley Glenn each hit homeruns for the Brown Dodgers as they topped the Hilldales by a score of 3-2. Hilldale was the first team to fold when they suspended operations in July 1945 due to financial reasons. Teams struggled through the first season. No All Star game or World Series games were scheduled.

The adversities from the 1945 season didn't deter the United States League from opening the season in 1946. The following individuals directed the baseball operations of the United States League for the 1946 season.

United States League (1946)

Individual	United States League Position
John G. Shackelford	President
W. A. Greenlee	Vice President - Treasurer
Sydney Smith	Executive Secretary
Haywood Jackson	Publicity Director
Hampton E. Johnson	Road Secretary

When the 1946 season opened, the following teams made up the United States League:

United States League (1946)

Team	Owner/Management	Manager
Brooklyn Brown Dodgers	George Armstrong Pete Armstrong	Oscar Charleston
Pittsburgh Crawfords	Gus Greelee	Roy "Red" Parnell
Chicago Brown Bombers	James Foster	Bingo De Moss
Cleveland Clippers	John Shackelford	John Shackelford
Boston Blues		Tom Parker
Toledo Cubs	Hank Rigney Jesse Heslip	Pee Wee Spencer
Detroit Motor City Giants	Ben Linton Perkins	

In addition to these teams, there were three other teams that were granted associate status: Newark Buffaloes, Trenton Stars and Louisville Black Colonels.

The United States League (USL) would be short lived because it failed to secure adequate facilities for games and lacked fan support. The USL also never received the support or cooperation of the Negro National League, Negro American League or Negro Southern League. The United States League folded during the 1946 season, but it gave Rickey the opportunity to scout Negro League talent.

Branch Rickey's plan to integrate Major League baseball got significant support when A.B. Chandler was elected Major League Baseball Commissioner in November 1944 following Kennesaw Mountain Landis's death. Chandler's views on integration were significantly different

than his predecessor. Chandler met with the black press in April 1945 and pledged his support for efforts to integrate Major League baseball.

Several political factors of the time also had a strong influence on the integration of Major League baseball.

- Civil rights groups were active all over the United States.
- Executive Order 8802 (Fair Employment Act) was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 25, 1941. This piece of federal legislation promoted equal opportunity and prohibited employment discrimination in the national defense industry. The new law also created the Fair employment Practices Committee and empowered it to investigate complaints and take action against alleged violations.
- The New York State Legislature passed the Fair Employment Practices Act in 1945. This law created an investigative committee to look into discriminatory hiring practices. One of the committee's first assignments was to investigate the integration of baseball.
- The Ives – Quinn Act, which was also passed in 1945 banned discrimination in hiring practices.
- The mayor of New York City, Fiorello La Guardia, established the Mayor's Commission on Baseball. The purpose of this committee was to study the integration of Major League baseball.

Without any doubt the tone was set by the mid 1940's for the first black ball player to be signed by Major League baseball. The only unanswered question was which player would be chosen.

Jackie Robinson Breaks the Color Barrier

By the summer of 1945, Branch Rickey had carefully evaluated all the top Negro League ball players to ensure that he made the right choice. Rickey was very cognizant of how difficult it would be to debut as the first black ball player in the Major Leagues. If the wrong player was chosen and failed because of skill level or deportment, it would be a long time before another black ball player would be given the opportunity to play in the Major Leagues. Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson was Rickey's first choice to integrate Major League baseball. The following factors convinced Rickey that Robinson was the best man for the job.

- Robinson was an outstanding athlete. He had lettered in four sports while in high school and in college (Pasadena College and UCLA). Jackie had been voted as the Most Valuable Junior College Baseball Player in Southern California in 1939.
- Robinson had gone to college at Pasadena College and UCLA in southern California. Athletic teams were integrated at UCLA. While at UCLA, Robinson played on the school's baseball, basketball, football and track team. Jackie was UCLA's first four-sport letterman. He also earned All-American honors in three sports.

- Robinson had been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. While serving as an officer in the 761st Tank Battalion, he showed that he could deal with prejudice and bigotry in a professional manner.
- Robinson had proven that he could play “big time baseball” during his 1945 season with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League and as a member of the American National Negro League All Stars tour of Latin America. Robinson was voted to the 1945 Negro League All Star team.
- Robinson’s character was his biggest asset. He had the mental discipline and fortitude to “take” whatever he was confronted with, deal with it and persevere.

Branch Rickey decided to have Jackie start his career in “organized” baseball with the Montreal Royals of the International League. The Royals were the triple-A farm club of the Dodgers. Rickey chose Montreal for two reasons.

1. Rickey felt there was far less racism in Canada and this would help with the pressure Jackie was to experience.
2. Rickey also felt the President of the Royals, Hector Racine was a fair man who would give Jackie the management support that he would need. Racine ‘s views on black Americans can be judged by reviewing a statement that he made to the media about the integration of baseball. This statement was: “Negroes fought alongside whites and shared foxhole dangers and they should get a fair trial in baseball.”

On October 23, 1945 under Rickey’s supervision, Hector Racine, the President of the Montreal Royals, signed Jackie Robinson to a contract with the Montreal Royals of the International League. Robinson’s first contract included a \$ 3,500 signing bonus and called for Jackie to be paid \$ 600 per month.

When Robinson was signed reactions were immediate and varied. A story that appeared in the *New York Times* on October 25, 1945 provides an excellent perspective of baseball’s reaction to Jackie Robinson joining the Brooklyn Dodgers organization. The *New York Times* interviewed the following people for their reactions to the integration of white organized baseball.

- **Branch Rickey** (Owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers) as to whether or not he had been pressured into signing Robinson – “I have not been pushed into this. I signed Robinson in spite of the pressure groups that are only exploiting the Negroes, instead of advancing their cause. I signed him because I knew of no reason why I shouldn’t. I want to win ball games and baseball is a game that is played by human beings.”
- **Branch Rickey** (President of the Brooklyn Dodgers) on answering charges that he had raided the Negro Leagues and was about to sign twenty-five more black players – “ The Negro organizations in baseball are not leagues, nor, in my opinion, do they even have organization. At present administered they are in the nature of a racket.”
- **Branch Rickey** (Owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers) on why Robinson was signed by the Royals and did not go straight to the Major Leagues - “Robinson was not ready for the Majors. In fact, my scouts inform me that there is not a single Negro player ready for the big leagues.”

- **Jackie Robinson** – “I hope to make good and open the way for others in my race to do likewise. I sincerely hope that I am able and lucky enough to make the grade.”
- **Clark Griffith** (Owner of Washington Senators) – “While it is true we have no agreement with Negro Leagues – American and National - we still can’t act like outlaws in taking their stars. If Brooklyn wanted to buy Robinson from Kansas City that would have been all right, but contracts of Negro teams should be recognized by organized baseball. In the eyes of organized baseball, the Negro teams today should have the same status as minor leagues before the draft went into effect. We bought their players in those days on the basis of the highest bid.”
- **Albert B. Chandler** (Baseball Commissioner) was unavailable for comment.
- **T.Y. Baird** (Co-owner of Kansas City Monarchs) – “I feel he (Jackie Robinson) is our property.”
- **Dr. J.B. Martin** (President of the Negro American League) endorsed Rickey’s signing of Robinson. Martin also suggested that a satisfactory working agreement between white and Negro Leagues be arranged for further transactions.
- **Satchel Paige** (Negro League super star) – “They didn’t make a mistake by signing Robinson. They couldn’t have picked a better man.”
- **Rogers Hornsby** (Former St. Louis Cardinals superstar and future Hall of Famer) – “A mixed baseball team differs from other sports because ball players on the road live much closer together. It won’t work”
- **Dixie Walker** (Brooklyn Dodgers outfielder) – “Robinson was signed by a farm club and as long as he isn’t here, I’m not worried.”
- **Adam C. Powell** (New York Democrat politician) – The signing of Jackie Robinson is a step that will bring cheer from all real Americans. This is a definite step toward winning the peace and now that this gentleman is in the International League the other leagues will not be able to furnish any alibis.”

The *New York Times* article also poled Major League players of Southern origin and reported that the Major League players were almost unanimous in finding no objection to the signing of Robinson, so long as he played on another team. The newspaper went on to report that officials in Daytona (spring training site of Brooklyn Dodgers and Montreal Royals) acknowledged that they fully anticipated integration problems with Robinson being in camp. In addition the hotel where the Dodgers and Royals stayed had already informed the teams that the hotel had a white persons only policy.

T.Y. (Tom) Baird’s reaction to Jackie Robinson signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers has often been misreported and misunderstood. In the initial Associated Press release that was printed in newspapers all over the country, Baird’s reaction is presented as a feeling that Rickey had “raided” the Negro Leagues when he signed Robinson without talking to or compensating the Kansas City Monarchs. It is interesting to note that Tom Baird sent a telegram to Branch Rickey immediately after Robinson’s signing was made public. The text of the Western Union telegram was as follows:

“Sorry my interview with the Associated Press relative to Jackie Robinson was misquoted, also misinterpreted. Would not do anything to hamper or impede the advancement of any Negro ball player, nor would we do anything to keep any Negro ball player out of white major leagues.

(Signed) “Tom Baird”

To complicate matters further there were reports that Baird had spoken with Baseball Commissioner A.B. “Happy” Chandler about appealing Robinson’s signing without any financial consideration made to the Negro League team to which he had been under contract. Buck O’Neil probably put in the best perspective on this subject during a conversation with Dr. Revel of the Center for Negro League Baseball Research. Buck’s interpretation was that Baird felt very conflicted about Jackie signing with the Dodgers. On one hand Baird was happy for Jackie to have the opportunity to play Major League baseball and to see other Negro League players to be given the chance to play in the Major Leagues. It was no secret that all black players wanted to have the chance to showcase their skills in the Major Leagues with all the best white players and on a stage that could be viewed by all baseball fans both black and white. On the other hand, Baird owned a Negro League franchise and held a strong allegiance to Negro League baseball. Baird knew that if the Major Leagues were integrated, the quality of play in the Negro Leagues would go down dramatically as the black stars went to play in the Major Leagues. Baird knew this in turn would lead to the demise of Negro League baseball.

J.L. Wilkinson (co-owner of Kansas City Monarchs) supported his partner Tom Baird’s position that they would not do anything to block Jackie Robinson playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In an interview that appeared in the *New York Times* on October 26, 1945, Wilkenson is quoted as saying:

“We have been out some expense in training players such as Robinson. We have a league; our players have contracts virtually the same as those used in organized ball. We could not go to the expense of training players until they became capable of filling jobs in organized ball and then have them taken away as ruthlessly as this has been done. We were not even given the courtesy by Rickey of notifying us. We repeat - we want Brooklyn to have Robinson. When Rickey says Jackie is the only one he has found who can play Double A ball we’ll give him the names of at least fifty Negro players good enough. Several we believe are good enough to play in the big leagues.”

Signing Jackie Robinson to a Minor League contract was one thing. Having Robinson play in the Major Leagues was something else. Branch Rickey was always very emphatic about the opposition he faced from other Major League teams about integration. Rickey’s contention was that he brought Jackie up to the Brooklyn Dodgers despite opposition from all the other Major League teams. According to Rickey (as reported in a story in the *New York Times* on February 18, 1948), a League meeting was held between the times that he signed Jackie and when Jackie started playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The subject of the meeting was “black ball players playing in the Major Leagues.” According to Rickey the Joint Committee adopted the following position:

“However well intended, the use of Negro players would hazard all the physical properties of baseball. “

According to Rickey, he sat by silently as the other fifteen teams adopted this policy. The unusual thing about this story is that no one ever saw a copy of the report. Rickey told the *New York Times* that Ford Frick (National League President) passed out a copy to each person at the

meeting. The copies of the report were taken up at the end of the meeting and when he asked for a copy at a later time from the League office, he was told that all the copies of the report had been destroyed.

The Dodgers assigned Robinson to their triple A farm team the Montreal Royals of the International League for the 1946 season. Robinson responded by winning the International League Batting Title (.349 batting average) and winning the International League Most Valuable Player Award. During spring training the next season, Jackie made the Dodgers Major League roster. Jackie Robinson debuted for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947 against the Boston Braves. Jackie's first game was not very memorable in that he went 0 for 3.

Robinson faced significant adversity on and off the field being the first black player in Major League baseball. He received threatening letters and constantly felt the pressure of being the only black in the Major Leagues. Robinson received the support of National League President Ford Frick and the management of other National League ball clubs. This was evidenced in a newspaper report that appeared in the May 10, 1947 *New York Times*. It had been rumored that the St. Louis Cardinals players were threatening to strike when they played the Brooklyn Dodgers. Team President Sam Beardon stepped in and put a stop to the strike talk and Ford Frick went public saying that "Robinson had the full backing of the National League and that any player persecuting Robinson would receive disciplinary action." Jackie had a solid season in his first year with the Dodgers. His statistics for his first season were as follows:

Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
151	590	125	175	31	5	12	48	29	.297

Robinson's 29 stolen bases led the National League. Jackie would go on to put up solid numbers every year and become a team leader.

During his ten-year career with the Dodgers from 1947-1956 Robinson proved both on and off the field that Branch Rickey had made the right choice. Robinson's career statistics with Dodgers were:

Year	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
1947	151	590	125	175	31	5	12	48	29	.297
1948	147	574	108	170	38	8	12	85	22	.296
1949	156	593	122	203	38	12	16	124	37	.342
1950	144	518	99	170	39	4	14	81	12	.328
1951	153	548	106	185	33	7	19	88	25	.338
1952	149	510	104	157	17	3	19	75	24	.308
1953	136	484	109	159	34	7	12	95	17	.329
1954	124	386	62	120	22	4	15	59	7	.311
1955	105	317	51	81	6	2	8	36	12	.256
1956	117	357	61	98	15	2	10	43	12	.275
Totals	1382	4877	947	1518	273	54	137	734	197	.311

Some of the highlights of Jackie Robinson's Major League career are:

- National League Rookie of the Year – 1947
- Led the National League in stolen bases -1947 (29 steals) and 1949 (37 steals)

- Hit over .300 six years in a row from 1949 to 1954.
- National League Batting Title – 1949 (.343 BA)
- National League Most Valuable Player – 1949
- National League All Star Team (6 times) – 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954
- Induction in the National Baseball Hall of Fame - 1962

Larry Doby Follows Jackie to the Majors

Shortly after Robinson debuted for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Larry Doby would break the color barrier in the American League when he played in the outfield for the Cleveland Indians. Doby's contract was purchased by Bill Veeck, the owner of the Cleveland Indians, for \$20,000 from Effa Manley the owner of the Newark Eagles. Doby got significantly less press and national attention than Robinson. Bill Veeck was quoted in the media as saying: "The only difference (was) that Jackie Robinson got all the publicity. Doby's comments on the subject were:

"You didn't hear much about what I was going through because the media didn't want to repeat the same story."

"I couldn't react to (prejudicial) situations from a physical standpoint. My reaction was to hit the ball as hard as I could."

Larry Doby would also go on to have an outstanding Major League career that would take him to induction in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Larry Doby played for thirteen (13) years in the Major Leagues for the Cleveland Indians (1947-1955 and 1958), Chicago White Sox (1956-1957 and 1959) and the Detroit Tigers (1959). Doby's Major League career statistics are:

Year	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
1947	29	32	3	5	1	0	0	1	0	.156
1948	121	439	83	132	23	9	14	66	9	.301
1949	147	547	106	153	25	3	24	85	10	.280
1950	142	503	110	164	25	5	25	102	8	.326
1951	134	447	84	132	27	5	20	69	4	.295
1952	140	519	104	143	26	8	32	104	5	.276
1953	149	513	92	135	18	5	29	102	3	.263
1954	153	577	94	157	18	4	32	126	3	.272
1955	131	491	91	143	17	5	26	75	2	.291
1956	140	504	89	135	22	3	24	102	0	.268
1957	119	416	57	120	27	2	14	79	2	.288
1958	89	247	41	70	10	1	13	45	0	.283
1959	39	113	6	26	5	2	0	13	1	.230
Totals	1533	5348	960	1515	243	52	253	970	47	.283

Some of the highlights of Larry Doby's Major League career are:

- The second black ball player to play in the Major Leagues and the first black player in the American League.
- Led the American League in homeruns in 1952 (32 homeruns) and 1954 (32 homeruns).
- Led the American League in runs batted in (RBI) in 1954 (126 RBI)
- Selected seven (7) time American League All Star team: 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955.
- Played in two World Series – 1948 and 1954
- Manager of the Chicago White Sox - 1978
- National Baseball Hall of Fame - 1998

More Negro League Players Join the Majors

During the 1947 season three more Negro League players would debut in the Majors. These players were Hank Thompson (St. Louis Browns), Willard Brown (St. Louis Browns) and Dan Bankhead (Brooklyn Dodgers).

In 1948 two more Negro League players would “make” the Majors. Roy Campanella would leave the Baltimore Elite Giants and play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Bill Veeck would sign the senior statesman of the Negro League and perhaps the greatest pitcher of all time in Satchel Paige to play for the Cleveland Indians.

Four more players would be “called up” to the Majors from the Negro Leagues during the 1949 season. These players were: Minnie Minoso (Cleveland Indians), Don Newcombe (Brooklyn Dodgers), Monte Irvin (New York Giants) and Luke Easter (Cleveland Indians).

The 1950 Major League baseball season would see only one more Negro League ball player added to the Major League baseball rosters. The only former Negro League player to make the Majors in 1950 was Sam Jethroe (Boston Braves).

Jackie Robinson making the Majors with the Brooklyn Dodgers during the 1947 season is often presented as the integration of baseball. There are several problems with this position. First, a few black ball players playing in the Major Leagues did not constitute the integration of the sport for all persons of color. During the first three years (1947-1949) of the integration of Major League baseball, only four teams had a black ball player on their roster. During the first four years after Jackie Robinson broke in with the Dodgers, only twelve black ball players were given the opportunity to play in the Majors. In addition only five Major League teams employed black ball players on their Major League rosters. These teams and former Negro League players were:

Major League Team	League	Number of Players	Players
Brooklyn Dodgers	National League	4	Jackie Robinson Dan Bankhead Roy Campanella Don Newcombe
Cleveland Indians	American League	4	Larry Doby Satchel Paige Minnie Minoso Luke Easter
St. Louis Browns	American League	2	Hank Thompson Willard Brown
New York Giants	National League	1	Monte Irvin
Boston Braves	National League	1	Sam Jethroe

Integration - A Long Time Coming

Jackie Robinson may have broken the color barrier in 1947, but the integration of Major League baseball was a slow arduous process. It took years for all the Major League teams to have at least one black ball player on their Major League roster. The last Major League team to integrate was the Boston Red Sox of the American League when Elijah “Pumpsie” Green made the Red Sox Major League roster for the 1959 season. It took thirteen years for all the Major League teams to have a least one black ball player on their Major League roster. In short, the integration of Major League baseball was a long difficult process. The following charts provide a time line as to how long it took for all the Major Baseball clubs to have at least one black ball player on their Major League roster.

When Jackie Robinson broke in with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 there were sixteen (16) Major League teams. There were eight (8) teams in the American League and eight (8) teams in the National League. During the first three years of the integration of Major League baseball, there were only eleven (11) black players given a “shot” at playing in the Big Leagues. Six of these players would go on to be elected into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. These players were: Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Willard Brown, Roy Campanella, Monte Irvin and Satchel Paige. From this researcher’s perspective it appears that if you were a Hall of Fame caliber ball player you might be given a shot during the early years of the integration of the Major Leagues, but if you only had above average skills you weren’t given much of a look. The biggest question may be: “How many black ball players that possessed Major League skills were not given a chance?”

From 1947 through the 1954 season (the first eight years of integration) there were forty-seven (47) former Negro League players who would appear on a Major League roster. Of this group nine (9) are in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. There were also a large number of former Negro League players who played Minor League baseball. If you analyze Minor League rosters

from this time period, you will find that each team had only one or two black players. In the final analysis, the number of Major League and Minor League teams that had black ball players on their roster is very small in comparison to the total number of roster spots.

The following charts analyze the integration of Major League baseball from 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke into the Major Leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers to 1959 when the Boston Red Sox (last team to integrate) added Elijah “Pumpsie” Green to their American League roster. The first chart shows in what year each American League and National League team added their first black ball player to their Major League roster. The chart also identifies the name of this player. The second chart identifies how many years it took for each Major League team to have at least one black ball player on their Major League roster. The third chart identifies how many former Negro League players each Major League club had on their Major League roster from 1947 to 1959.

Timeline - Integration of Major League Baseball

Year	American League	National League
1947	Cleveland Indians (Larry Doby) St. Louis Browns (Hank Thompson)	Brooklyn Dodgers (Jackie Robinson)
1948	None	None
1949	None	New York Giants (Monte Irvin)
1950	None	Boston Braves (Sam Jethroe)
1951	Chicago White Sox (Sam Hairston)	None
1952	None	None
1953	Philadelphia Athletics (Bob Trice)	Chicago Cubs (Ernie Banks)
1954	Washington Senators (Carlos Paula)	Pittsburgh Pirates (Curt Roberts) Cincinnati Reds (Chuck Harmon and Nino Escalera) St. Louis Cardinals (Tom Alston)
1955	New York Yankees (Elston Howard)	None
1956	None	None

1957	None	Philadelphia Phillies (John Kennedy)
1958	Detroit Tigers (Ozzie Virgil)	None
1959	Boston Red Sox (Elijah "Pumpsie" Green)	

It is interesting to note that three of two players entered the Major Leagues with no previous Negro League experience. These players were: Nino Escalera and Ozzie Virgil. Both of these black players came directly from Latin America.

Nino Escalera was born in 1929 in Santurce, Puerto Rico. Nino had extensive professional baseball experience in his home country of Puerto Rico before his Major League debut with the Cincinnati Reds in 1954. Nino had played in the Puerto Rican Winter League for seventeen seasons (16 years with San Juan and one year with Caguas). During his rookie season of 1947-48 he hit .337 for San Juan Senators. Nino would play only one year in the Majors. He appeared in 73 games for the Reds and hit a meager .159.

Carlos Paula was born in Havana, Cuba in 1927. Paula's professional baseball career began with Almendares of the Cuban Winter League in 1952. Carlos played nine seasons in the Cuban League from 1952 to 1961. The Cincinnati Reds signed him in 1952 and sent him to Decatur of the Mississippi-Ohio League where he hit .334. During his minor league career he also played for Paris (Big State League), Charlotte (Sally League), Denver, Louisville and Miami (International League). He was 27 years old when he played in the outfield for the Washington Senators in 1954. Carlos would play three years for Washington from 1954 to 1956. Carlos would end his Major League career with a .271 batting average. His best year was 1955 when he appeared in 115 games and had 20 doubles, 7 triples, 6 homeruns, 45 runs batted in and a .299 batting average. His performance on the field for the Senators seems to indicate that he should have been given more of a chance at the Major League level.

Ozzie Virgil is the first Dominican born athlete to play in the Major Leagues. He was born in 1933 in Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. Virgil began playing professional baseball in Puerto Rico in 1952 with Mayaguez of the Puerto Rican Winter League. He broke into the Major Leagues in 1956 with the New York Giants of the National League at the age of 23. He had already played in the Major Leagues for two years (New York Giants in 1956-1957) before he broke the color barrier in 1958 with the Detroit Tigers. Over his nine (9) Major League seasons that spanned from 1956 to 1969, Virgil proved to be a valuable utility player with his ability to play six different positions. During his Major League career, Ozzie played for the New York Giants, Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Athletics, Baltimore Orioles, Pittsburgh Pirates and San Francisco Giants. During his Major League career he appeared in 324 games and had a career batting average of .231.

One of the most difficult aspects of the integration of Major League baseball was the number of years that it took for all the Major League teams to have at least one black ball player on their Major League roster. The following chart identifies the length of time that it took Major League baseball to fully integrate.

Number of Years it took for All Major League Teams to Integrate

American League		National League	
Cleveland Indians	0	Brooklyn Dodgers	0
St. Louis Browns	0	New York Giants	2
Chicago White Sox	4	Boston Braves	3
Philadelphia Athletics	6	Chicago Cubs	6
Washington Senators	7	Pittsburgh Pirates	7
New York Yankees	8	Cincinnati Reds	7
Detroit Tigers	11	St. Louis Cardinals	7
Boston Red Sox	12	Philadelphia Phillies	10

From the day Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945, the Negro Leagues were highly scouted for ball players. The best players from the Negro Leagues would be sold outright or signed without compensation to the Negro League team owner by Major League baseball. Over the period of 1947 to 1978 the Negro Leagues would send eighty-seven (87) players to the Major Leagues. A breakdown by team of how many players made the Major Leagues is as follows:

Breakdown by Team of the Number of Players sent to Majors by the Negro Leagues

Team	Number of Players who went to Majors
Kansas City Monarchs	20
Indianapolis Clowns	12
New York Cubans	7
Birmingham Black Barons	7
Chicago American Giants	5
Cleveland Buckeyes	5
Philadelphia Stars	5
Homestead Grays	5
Memphis Red Sox	4
Newark Eagles	4
Baltimore Elite Giants	3
Raleigh Tigers	2
Atlanta Black Crackers	1
Detroit Stars	1
Greensboro Red Wings	1
Houston/New Orleans Eagles	1
Louisville Buckeyes	1
New York Black Yankees	1
Jacksonville Eagles	1
Havana Cuban Giants	1

Total Number of Negro League Players

From 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier to 1959 when the Boston Red Sox finally had their first black player on a Major League roster there were several black players that played in the Major Leagues that had not played in the Negro League. These players, their Major League teams and the year they debuted in the Majors are as follows:

**Black Players Who Made the Major League from 1947-1959
and did not Play in Negro Leagues**

Player	Major League Team	Debut Year
Carlos Bernier	Pittsburgh Pirates	1953
Ruben Gomez	New York Giants	1953
Saturino Nino Escalera	Cincinnati Reds	1954
Brooks Lawrence	St. Louis Cardinals	1954
Vic Power	Philadelphia Athletics	1954
Earl Battey	Chicago White Sox	1955
Julio Becquer	Washington Senators	1955
Roberto Clemente	Pittsburgh Pirates	1955
Hector Lopez	Kansas City Athletics	1955
Roman Mejias	Pittsburgh Pirates	1955
Humberto Robinson	Milwaukee Braves	1955
Charlie Beamon, Sr.	Baltimore Orioles	1956
Wes Covington	Milwaukee Braves	1956
Solly Drake	Chicago Cubs	1956
Chico Fernandez	Brooklyn Dodgers	1956
Curt Flood	Cincinnati Reds	1956
Felix Mantilla	Milwaukee Braves	1956
Frank Robinson	Cincinnati Reds	1956
Ozzie Virgil	New York Giants	1956
Bill White	New York Giants	1956
Bennie Daniels	Pittsburgh Pirates	1957
Lenny Green	Baltimore Orioles	1957
Juan Pizzaro	Milwaukee Braves	1957
Andre Rodgers	New York Giants	1957
John Roseboro	Brooklyn Dodgers	1957
Valmy Thomas	New York Giants	1957
Rene Guitierrez Valdes	Brooklyn Dodgers	1957
Felipe Alou	San Francisco Giants	1958
Ruben Amaro	St. Louis Cardinals	1958
Ellis Burton	St. Louis Cardinals	1958
Orlando Cepeda	San Francisco Giants	1958
James "Mudcat" Grant	Cleveland Indians	1958
Willie Kirkland	San Francisco Giants	1958
Orlando Pena	Cincinnati Reds	1958
Vada Pinson	Cincinnati Reds	1958
R.C. Stevens	Pittsburgh Pirates	1958
Willie Tasby	Baltimore Orioles	1958

Tony Taylor	Chicago Cubs	1958
Leon Wagner	San Francisco Giants	1958
Joe Christopher	Pittsburgh Pirates	1959
Tommy Davis	Los Angeles Dodgers	1959
Don Eaddy	Chicago Cubs	1959
Bob Gibson	St. Louis Cardinals	1959
Elijah "Pumpsie" Green	Boston Red Sox	1959
Al Jackson	Pittsburgh Pirates	1959
Lee Maye	Milwaukee Braves	1959
Jose Pagan	San Francisco Giants	1959
Dick Ricketts	St. Louis Cardinals	1959
Billy Williams	Chicago Cubs	1959
Earl Wilson	Boston Red Sox	1959

When analyzing the list of the black players who played in the Major Leagues from 1947 through 1959 and did not play in the Negro Leagues, two things stand out. First, a significant number of these black players were from Latin America. Stars like Roberto Clemente, Ruben Gomez, Juan Pizarro and Vic Power who in the days before integration would have seen the Negro League as their only opportunity to play professional baseball in the United States, now had other options. Of the fifty (50) players listed, twenty-three (23) are from Latin America. A break down of the country these players came from is as follows:

Black Players from Foreign Countries: 1947-1959

Country	Number of Black Players in Majors
Puerto Rico	10
Cuba	6
Panama	2
Dominican Republic	2
Virgin Islands	1
Bahamas	1
Mexico	1

The second issue that stands out is that there are several black players who played for more than one Major League team from 1947 through the 1959 season. There were thirty-four (34) players that played for more than one Major League team during the years of 1947 through 1959. A list of these players, the teams they played for and the years they played are detailed in the following chart.

Black Players who played for more than One Major League Team from 1947-1959

Player	Team	Year (s)
Gene Baker	Chicago Cubs	1953-1957
	Pittsburgh Pirates	1957-1958
Joe Black	Brooklyn Dodgers	1952-1955
	Cincinnati Reds	1955-1956
	Washington Senators	1957
Bob Boyd	Chicago White Sox	1951, 1953-1954
	Baltimore Orioles	1956-1959
George Crowe	Boston Braves	1952-1955

	Cincinnati Reds	1956-1958
	St. Louis Cardinals	1959
Larry Doby	Cleveland Indians	1947-1955
	Chicago White Sox	1956-1957, 1959
	Detroit Tigers	1959
Solly Drake	Chicago Cubs	1956
	Los Angeles Dodgers	1959
	Philadelphia Phillies	1959
Joe Durham	Baltimore Orioles	1954, 1957
	St. Louis Cardinals	1959
Chico Fernandez	Brooklyn Dodgers	1956
	Philadelphia Phillies	1957-1959
Curt Flood	Cincinnati Reds	1956-1957
	St. Louis Cardinals	1958-1959
Ruben Gomez	New York Giants	1953-1958
	Philadelphia Phillies	1959
Lenny Green	Baltimore Orioles	1957-1958
	Washington Senators	1959
Chuck Harmon	Cincinnati Reds	1954-1956
	St. Louis Cardinals	1956-1957
	Philadelphia Phillies	1957
Monte Irvin	New York Giants	1949-1955
	Chicago Cubs	1956
Sam Jethroe	Boston Braves	1950-1952
	Pittsburgh Pirates	1954
Connie Johnson	Chicago White Sox	1953, 1955-1956
	Baltimore Orioles	1956-1958
Sam Jones	Cleveland Indians	1951-1952
	Chicago Cubs	1955-1956
	St. Louis Cardinals	1957-1958
	San Francisco Giants	1959
Brooks Lawrence	St. Louis Cardinals	1954-1955
	Cincinnati Reds	1956-1959
Hector Lopez	Kansas City Athletics	1955-1959
	New York Yankees	1959
Luis Marquez	Boston Braves	1951
	Chicago Cubs	1954
	Pittsburgh Pirates	1954
Minnie Minoso	Cleveland Indians	1949, 1951, 1958-1959
	Chicago White Sox	1951-1957
Don Newcombe	Brooklyn Dodgers	1949-1958
	Cincinnati Reds	1958-1959
Jim Pendleton	Milwaukee Braves	1953-1956
	Pittsburgh Pirates	1957-1958
	Cincinnati Reds	1959
Dave Pope	Cleveland Indians	1952, 1954-1955, 1956
	Baltimore Orioles	1955-1956
Satchel Paige	Cleveland Indians	1948-1949
	St. Louis Browns	1951-1953
Vic Power	Philadelphia/Kansas City Athletics	1954-1958
	Cleveland Indians	1958-1959
Humberto Robinson	Milwaukee Braves	1955-1956, 1958
	Cleveland Indians	1959
	Philadelphia Phillies	1959
Jose Santiago	Cleveland Indians	1954-1955

Harry Simpson	Kansas City Athletics	1956
	Cleveland Indians	1951-1953, 1955
	Kansas City Athletics	1955-1957, 1958-1959
	New York Yankees	1957-1958
	Chicago White Sox	1959
	Pittsburgh Pirates	1959
Al Smith	Cleveland Indians	1953-1957
	Chicago White Sox	1958-1959
Joe Taylor	Philadelphia Athletics	1954
	Cincinnati Reds	1957
	St. Louis Cardinals	1958
	Baltimore Orioles	1958-1959
Valmy Thomas	New York / San Francisco	
	Giants	1957-1958
	Philadelphia Phillies	1959
Hank Thompson	St. Louis Browns	1947
	New York Giants	1949-1956
Ozzie Virgil	New York Giants	1956-1957
	Detroit Tigers	1958
Bill White	New York/San Francisco	
	Giants	1956, 1958
	St. Louis Cardinals	1959

Of all the players listed Harry “Suitcase” Simpson really earned his nickname by playing with 5 different teams over these years.

Number of former Negro League Players on Each Major League Team Roster (1947-1959)

American League		National League	
Cleveland Indians	15	Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers	9
Chicago White Sox	4	Boston/Milwaukee Braves	9
St. Louis Browns/ Baltimore Orioles	3	Chicago Cubs	4
Philadelphia Athletics	2	Cincinnati Reds	4
New York Yankees	1	New York Giants	4
Washington Senators	2	St. Louis Cardinals	4
Detroit Tigers	1	Philadelphia Phillies	3
Boston Red Sox	1	Pittsburgh Pirates	2

Number of Black Ball Players on Each Major League Team Roster (1947-1959)

American League		National League	
Boston Red Sox	2	Brooklyn/ Los Angeles Dodgers	14
Cleveland Indians	18	Boston/ Milwaukee Braves	14
Chicago White Sox	8	Chicago Cubs	10
Detroit Tigers	3	Cincinnati Reds	15
St. Louis Browns/ Baltimore Orioles	12	New York/ San Francisco Giants	17
Philadelphia/ Kansas City Athletics	6	St. Louis Cardinals	17
New York Yankees	3	Philadelphia Phillies	9
Washington Senators	4	Pittsburgh Pirates	14
Total	56	Total	110

From 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke in with Brooklyn to 1959 when the Boston Red Sox became the last Major League club to integrate, there were 116 different black ball players who occupied 166 roster spots on Major League teams. As the above chart shows 56 of these players were in the American league and 110 of these players were in the National League. The Cleveland Indians had the most black players on their roster with eighteen (18). Cleveland had an overwhelming 32 % of all the black players in the American League during this time frame. The New York Giants and St. Louis Cardinals of the National League followed closely with seventeen (17) players each. The Boston Red Sox had only two players (Elijah “Pumpsie” Green and Earl Wilson) on their Major League roster over this 13-year period. The New York Yankees and Detroit Tigers managed to place on three black players on their Major League roster from 1947-1959. Interestingly enough, the National League had almost twice as many black players on their Major League rosters during the time frame from 1947 through 1959 as the American League. It is important to note when reviewing this chart that several players played for more than one team during this time frame.

Besides making history as part of the integration of Major League baseball, these black players also had a major impact on how the game of baseball was played in the American and National League. Twenty-two (22) of these players or 18.9 % of all black players who played from 1947-1959 made at least one American League or National League All Star team from 1947-1959. A list of these players includes:

Black Ball Players Who Made Major League All Star Team (1947-1959)

Player	Number of Years Major League All Star
Hank Aaron	6
Gene Baker	1
Ernie Banks	5
Roy Campanella	8
Orlando Cepeda	1
George Crowe	1
Larry Doby	7
Jim Gilliam	2
Elston Howard	3
Sam Jones	2
Willie Mays	6
Minnie Minoso	5
Charlie Neal	1
Don Newcombe	4
Satchel Paige	2
Vada Pinson	1
Vic Power	3
Frank Robinson	3
Jackie Robinson	6
John Roseboro	1
Al Smith	1
Bill White	1

In addition thirteen (13) other black ball players who debuted in the Major Leagues in 1959 or before would be named to at least one Major League All Star team after 1960. This group is headed by Roberto Clemente (12 time All Star), Bob Gibson (8 time All Star), Willie Mc Covey (6 time All Star) and Billy Williams (6 time All Star). Of the 116 different black players who debuted from 1947 to 1959, thirty-five (35) or 30.1% made at east one Major League All Star team.

Of this initial group of black ball players who integrated the Major League, fifteen (15) players would go on to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Black Ball Players Who Played from 1947-1959 and Have Been Inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame

Hank Aaron	Monte Irvin
Ernie Banks	Willie Mays
Willard Brown	Willie Mc Covey
Roy Campanella	Satchel Paige
Orlando Cepeda	Frank Robinson
Roberto Clemente	Jackie Robinson
Larry Doby	Billy Williams
Bob Gibson	

The rate of success of these early black ball players was phenomenal. Major League owners chose well in their player selections to integrate to integrate baseball.

An extremely interesting study of the impact of black players on the Major Leagues can be found in an article entitled The Effects of Integration, 1947-1986. This research was conducted by Mark Armour and published in the Society for American Baseball Research's publication The Baseball Research Journal # 36.

Even with the early success of black ball players in the Major Leagues, the process of integration was very slow. The lack of progress of Major League baseball clubs in signing black players and promoting them to the Major Leagues did not go unnoticed. There were public outcries from civil rights groups all over the country. None was louder than the Mayor's Committee for Unity in New York City. Headed by Dr. Dan Dodson, the Mayor's Committee on Unity tried to pressure the New York Yankees (American League) and New York Giants (National League) into signing black ball players and having black ball players on their Major League roster. In an interview that appeared in the *New York Times* on March 8, 1948, Dr. Dodson cited that Branch Rickey and the Brooklyn Dodgers had shown for two years that Negro ball players could play Major League baseball. Dr. Dodson also condemned the National Association of Minor Leagues for denying entry of the Negro National League and Negro American League into their organization. Dr. Dodson's contention was that baseball owners had continued segregation because they found it profitable. In this newspaper article Dr. Dodson's position on segregation was quoted as follows:

“With the fact that as long as segregation exists, and such a large portion of our population are relegated to ghetto existence because of color of skin, it is going to be impossible to appreciably improve the intercrop relations of our community, and what goes for us goes for the rest of the country. It is now clear that not only does prejudice produce segregation but segregation produces prejudice as well.”

After reviewing these charts there are several obvious questions:

- Why did it take so long for the majority of the Major League teams to integrate?
- Why were so few Negro League ball players given a chance to play in the Majors?
- How could it take the New York Yankees eight (8) years to find one quality black ball player that could play at the Major League level?
- Why were so many talented ball players like Alonzo Perry, Lorenzo “Piper” Davis, Horace Garner, Al Pinkston, Art “Superman” Pennington, Clyde Paris, etc. relegated to playing their careers in the Minor Leagues?

From 1947 through 1954, forty-seven (47) Negro League ball players would play in the Majors. From 1955 through the 1969 season thirty (30) more Negro League ball players would make a Major League roster. During the barnstorming era of 1955 to 1975, the Indianapolis Clowns would send nine (9) players and the Jacksonville Eagles would send one (1) black ball player to see Major League action.

The Research Library of this website has a complete list of all the Negro League ball players that made the Major League from 1947-1978. The listing includes the Negro League team the player played for, the Major League team with which the player debuted and the year that the player made the Major Leagues.

Negro Leaguers Distinguish Themselves in the Major Leagues

There is a world of difference between making a Major League roster and staying in the Big Leagues. In order to stay in the Major Leagues, a player would have to endure and produce on the field. Despite all the abuse and hardships, several former Negro League ball players made it to the Major Leagues and had long distinguished careers. The road to the Major Leagues was very difficult. Players had to endure a significant amount of abuse and countless hardships both on and off the field. Jackie Robinson probably summarized it best when he was quoted as having said: “You had to be significantly better on the field than everyone else just to be good enough to be allowed to play.”

We can’t forget that while black ball players played in the Negro Leagues, they played with a lot of great teammates, had some good fans supporting them and played in excellent baseball communities around the country.

There were also significant hardships that players had to endure. Hardships, perseverance and endurance characterized the trial of the black ball player trying to make it in Major League baseball. What separated those who made it from those who didn’t was the player’s ability to take adversities and make them his strengths. Examples of what black players had to endure on the playing field were:

- Constant scrutiny by both the “black” and “white” press.
- Players were often shunned by their teammates.
- Verbal abuse from the stands and opposing players.
- Black players didn’t always get a “fair” shake from the umpires, especially when playing in the South.
- It was not uncommon for an opposing pitcher to throw at a black batter. Curt Roberts while playing for San Diego of the Pacific Coast League was hit four times in one game.
- Black players needed to be on constant guard from being spiked.
- Fans would often throw things at black players when they were on the field.
- Players were threatened with physical violence if they played good in a particular game.

Art “Superman” Pennington who had an outstanding career in the Negro Leagues and also played for several seasons in the Minor Leagues shared this story about racial prejudice in baseball at the 2008 Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference (Society for American Baseball Research).

“When I was playing in Mexico, I married a beautiful Spanish girl with long red hair. She sure was beautiful. In 1949 I signed to play with Portland in the Pacific Coast League. When my wife came to the ballpark to watch me play, the other player’s wives won’t sit with her because she was white and I was black. After the game I told the players in the clubhouse that the reason their wives wouldn’t sit with my wife was that they were too ugly. After this incident, I made plans to go to South America to play.”

Fred Moulder, who played in the Los Angeles Dodgers Minor League organization during the mid and late 1960's, told Dr. Revel that when he was playing for Albuquerque of the Texas League in a game in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1967 several of the Little Rock fans hung toy monkeys on a string and dangled them over their dugout for the entire game.

Interestingly enough white fans often had a double standard as to how they viewed a black ball player. Numerous former Negro League players who were interviewed by Dr. Revel shared that if the fan favored the team the black ball player played for, white fans would use the term "colored." However, if there were black ball players on the opposing team they would be referred to as "niggers."

Some examples of the off-the-field hardships that black ball players faced during their careers were:

- Black players most often couldn't stay in the same hotel or eat in the same restaurants with their white teammates.
- Housing for black players and their families was often difficult. Dan Bankhead's ability to find an apartment for his family added to the pressure he was confronted with during his short stay in Brooklyn in 1947. Bankhead cited the financial pressure of having to live in an expensive hotel and the frustration of not being able to find adequate housing for his wife and children as the major reason he struggled in his 1947 season debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- Players' families were harassed or threatened when they went out in public.
- Many black players received death threats during their careers.

In spite of these adversities, numerous Negro League players had long, illustrious careers in the Major Leagues. Highlights from some of the former Negro League players who were also standouts in the Major League included:

Hank Aaron - Major League Career Highlights:

- All Time Major League Homerun Leader (755 homeruns)
- *Sporting News* National League Player of Year (1956)
- Most Valuable Player – National League (1957)
- National League Homerun Titles: 1957 (44), 1963 (44), 1966 (44) & 1967 (39)
- National League Batting Titles: 1956 (.328) and 1959 (.355)
- National League All Star Team: 20 straight years (1956-1974)
- American League All Star Team: 1975
- National Baseball Hall of Fame (1982)

Ernie Banks – Major League Career Highlights:

- Entire career – 19 years and 2528 games all with Chicago Cubs
- National League Most Valuable Player (1958 and 1959)
- National League Homerun Title: 1958 (47) and 1960 (41)
- National League Runs Batted In Title: 1958 (129) and 1959 (143)
- 512 career homeruns and 1636 runs batted in
- National League All Star Team: 11 times (1955-1962, 1965, 1967 & 1969)

- National Baseball Hall of Fame (1977)

Roy Campanella – Major League Career Highlights:

- Entire 10 year career – 1215 games with Brooklyn Dodgers
- National League Most Valuable Player: 3 times (1951, 1953 and 1955)
- National League All Star Team: 8 times (1949-1956)
- National League Runs Batted In Title: 1953 (142)
- National Baseball Hall of Fame (1969)

Larry Doby – Major League Career Highlights:

- Broke color barrier in American League – four months after Jackie Robinson broke in with Brooklyn Dodgers, Larry Doby debuted with Cleveland Indians
- American League Homerun Titles: 1952 (32) and 1954 (32)
- American League Runs Batted In Title: 1954 (126)
- Led Cleveland Indians to record setting 111 wins in 1954
- American League All Star Team: 6 years (1949-1954)
- National Baseball Hall of Fame (1998)

Elston Howard – Major League Career Highlights

- First black player for the New York Yankees
- American League Most Valuable Player (1963)
- American Gold Glove Award (1963 and 1964)
- Exceptional defensive skills - .993 fielding average
- American League All Star Team: 9 times (1957-1965)

Sam Jones – Major League Career Highlights:

- Led the National League in wins with 21 in 1959
- Led the National League in earned run average in 1959 with 2.83 ERA
- Led the National League three times in strikeouts: 1955 (198), 1956 (176) and 1959 (225)
- National League All Star Team: (1955 and 1959)

Willie Mays – Major League Career Highlights

- National League Rookie of Year (1951)
- National League Most Valuable Player: 1954 and 1965
- National League Homerun Titles: 1955 (51), 1962 (49), 1964 (47) & 1965 (52)
- National League Batting Title: 1954 (.345 BA)
- National League Gold Glove: 12 times (1957-1968)
- 660 homeruns, 1905 runs batted in (RBI) and .302 batting average
- National League All Star Team: 20 times (1954-1973)
- National Baseball Hall of Fame (1979)

Orestes “Minnie” Minoso - Major League Career Highlights

- American League Stolen Base Leader: 3 times - 1951 (31), 1952 (22) & 1953 (25)

- American League Gold Glove Award: 3 times (1957, 1959 and 1960)
- 186 homeruns, 1023 runs batted in and .298 batting average
- American League All Star Team: 7 times (1951-1954, 1957, 1959 and 1960)

Don Newcombe – Major League Career Highlights

- National League Rookie of Year (1949)
- National League Most Valuable Player (1956)
- National League Cy Young Award (1956)
- National League Wins Leader: 1956 (27)
- National League Strikeout Leader: 1951 (164)
- National League All Star Team: 4 times (1949, 1950, 1951 and 1955)

Satchel Paige – Major League Career Highlights

- Debuted with Cleveland Indians in 1948 at age of 42
- Posted a 6-1 record with a 2.47 ERA in his rookie season with Cleveland
- American League All Star Team (1952 and 1953)
- National Baseball Hall of Fame (1971)

Major League career statistics of selected former Negro League players are:

Negro League Players - Major League Batting Statistics

Player	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
Hank Aaron	3298	12364	2174	3771	624	98	755	2297	240	.305
George Altman	991	3091	409	832	132	34	101	403	52	.269
Sandy Amoros	517	1311	215	334	55	23	43	180	18	.255
Gene Baker	630	2230	265	590	109	21	39	227	21	.265
Ernie Banks	2528	9421	1305	2583	407	90	512	1636	50	.274
Bob Boyd	693	1936	253	567	81	23	19	175	9	.293
Roy Campanella	1215	4205	627	1161	178	18	242	856	25	.276
George Crowe	702	1727	215	467	70	12	81	299	3	.270
Larry Doby	1533	5348	960	1515	243	52	253	970	47	.283
Luke Easter	491	1725	256	472	54	12	93	340	1	.274
Junior Gilliam	1956	7119	1163	1889	304	71	65	558	203	.265
Elston Howard	1605	5363	619	1471	218	50	167	762	9	.274
Monte Irvin	764	2499	366	731	97	31	99	443	28	.293
Lou Johnson	677	2049	244	529	97	14	48	232	50	.258
Willie Mays	2992	10881	2062	3283	523	140	660	1903	338	.302
Minnie Minoso	1835	6579	1136	1963	336	83	186	1023	205	.298
Willie Mc Covey	2588	8197	1229	2211	353	46	521	1555	26	.270
Charlie Neal	970	3316	461	858	113	38	87	391	48	.259
Jim Pendleton	444	941	120	240	30	8	19	97	11	.255
Harry Simpson	888	2829	343	752	101	41	73	381	17	.266
Al Smith	1517	5357	843	1458	258	46	164	676	67	.272
Willie Smith	691	1654	171	410	63	21	46	211	20	.248
Hank Thompson	933	3003	492	801	104	34	129	482	33	.267

Negro League Players - Major League Pitching Statistics

Player	Years	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
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Joe Black	6	172	414	30	12	200	129	222	3.91
Connie Johnson	5	123	716	40	39	302	257	497	3.44
Sam Jones	12	322	1643	102	101	752	822	1376	3.59
Don Newcombe	10	344	2154	149	90	956	490	1129	3.56
Satchel Paige	6	179	476	28	31	191	180	288	3.29
John Wyatt	9	435	687	42	44	290	346	540	3.47

Major Leaguers Go Barnstorming

Playing in the Major Leagues made black ball players a celebrity in both the black and white communities. During the off-season, the black stars of the Major League would have their own barnstorming baseball teams. During the 1950's the top barnstorming black baseball clubs from the Major Leagues were:

- Jackie Robinson's All Stars
- Willie Mays All Stars
- Roy Campanella's All Stars
- Hank Aaron's All Stars

Examples of some of the lineups for some of these teams included:

Jackie Robinson's All Stars 1953		Roy Campanella's All Stars 1953		Willie Mays All Stars 1956	
Ralph Branca	P	George Crowe	1B	Harry Simpson	1B
Larry Curry	SS	Junior Gilliam	2B	Hank Thompson	2B
Luke Easter	1B	Jim Pendleton	SS	Gene Baker	SS
Johnny Glenn	OF	Bob Boyd	3B	Al Smith	3B
Buster Haywood	C	Roy Campanella	C	Elston Howard	C
Gil Hodges	OF	Billy Bruton	RF	Hank Aaron	RF
James Mc Neal	3B	Larry Doby	CF	Willie Mays	CF
Jackie Robinson	OF	Harry Simpson	LF	Frank Robinson	LF
Al Rosen	3B	Don Newcombe	P	Monte Irvin	Reserve
		Joe Black	P	Joe Black	P
		Connie Johnson	P	Sam Jones	P

These teams would most often have a team of "white" Major League All Stars, Negro American League team or Negro League All Star team travel with them as their regular opponent. In 1959, Hank Aaron's All Stars barnstormed against Harmon Killebrew's All Stars. The Birmingham Black Barons with Pee Wee Butts, Henry Kimbro, Ed Steele, Pepper Bassett and others barnstormed as the regular opponent for Roy Campanella's All Stars during the 1953 off-season. The Willie Mays All Stars tour of 1956 had the Negro American League All Stars as their opponent.

Teams would play a significant number of games and travel all over the country. During Roy Campanella's All Star tour of 1953, which lasted from October 8 though November 10, the team played 34 games. They played games in the following states: Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Hawaii, Texas, California, Florida and Louisiana. The tour ended with their final game in Havana, Cuba. The Willie Mays All Stars made two barnstorming tours of Latin America in 1956 and 1957. During the 1957 Latin American tour, the Willie Mays All Star played a three game series in Panama in October against an all-star team from the Panama Winter

League. The Willie Mays All Stars won all three games of series, with the Panamanian squad only getting one run in three games.

Besides the teams that featured the black superstars of Major League baseball, other black ball players had their own barnstorming teams. While teams like Jackie Robinson's All Stars or Roy Campanella's All Stars played the big cities and Major League stadiums, teams like Luke Easter's All Stars were playing the smaller markets. Luke Easter's team barnstormed in 1950 against a team of current Major Leaguers called Danny Lithwiler's Major League All Stars. Minnie Minoso had his own team that featured black and Latin ball players. Minoso's All Stars team played in Cuba and other Latin American countries. Ed Charles who played third base for the Kansas City Athletics from 1962-1967 even had his own barnstorming team that toured his home state of Florida in 1966.

Barnstorming provided a good source of extra income for the ball players during the off- season and allowed them to stay in good playing shape for the next Major League season.

The Research Library of this website providess a listing of some of the black baseball barnstorming teams from the early days of Negro League baseball through the integration of Major League baseball and a listing of rosters of black baseball barnstorming teams from 1946 to 1988.

Negro League Players in the Minor Leagues

In addition hundreds of other Negro League players would be signed by Major League organizations and play in their Minor League systems. Some players lasted only a short time in "organized" ball, while others would have long distinguished Minor League careers without being called up to the Majors. Several players whose Negro League careers ended in the 1940's and went on to long Minor League careers included: Lorenzo "Piper" Davis, Ray Dandridge, Al Pinkston, Alonzo Perry, Wilmer Fields, Horace Garner, Sam Hairston, Art "Superman" Pennington and Marvin Williams. Other Negro League players who played in the 1940's and 1950's in the Negro Leagues after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier and went on to have outstanding Minor League careers include: Nap Gulley, Butch Mc Cord, Nat Peoples, William Powell, Pedro Sierra, Al Spearman, Earl Taborn, Roberto Vargas, as well as many others.

Al Pinkston is one of the best examples of an outstanding hitter who never got a shot at the Major Leagues. Over his fifteen year Minor League career, Pinkston had a .352 batting average. Some of the highlights of Al Pinkston's Minor League career are:

- Career bating average of .352
- Won six (6) Minor League batting titles

League	Year	Number of Hits	Batting Average
Canadian	1952	173	.360
SALLY	1954	180	.360
Mexican	1959	197	.369
Mexican	1960	225	.397
Mexican	1961	152	.374
Mexican	1962	172	.381

- Hit .372 during his seven years in the Mexican League

- Won the Triple Crown in 1952 in the Canadian Provincial League
- Led his league in runs batted in on four (4) different occasions
- Led his league six (6) times in total hits
- Pinkston was a clutch hitter who hit for both power and average

Alonzo Perry was a big first baseman that stood 6' 3" tall and weighed 200 pounds. Born in 1923, Perry was only 24 when Jackie Robinson broke into the Majors. Over a professional baseball career that lasted from 1940 through 1963, Perry never got a chance to bat in the Major Leagues. He played seven seasons in the Negro Leagues with the Homestead Grays and Birmingham Black Barons. Except for parts of two seasons in 1949 and 1951, Perry's Minor League career was spent in Canada, Dominican Republic and Mexico. The one thing that was always consistent with Perry's game is that he hit everywhere he plated. Some of his career highlights are:

- Career batting average of .349 in 1021 Minor League games
- Won four Homerun Titles in 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1956
- Won Six League Runs Batted In (RBI) Titles
- Won three Batting Championships 1954 (.336), 1956 (.392) and 1957-58 (.332)
- Won Triple Crown in Mexican League in 1956 (28 HR, 118 RBI and .392 BA)
- Led league four times in runs scored, three times in total hits, three times in doubles and twice in triples.

It is interesting that no Major League team ever noticed that Perry could flat out hit. He should have been a Major League prospect for somebody.

Ray Dandridge put up Hall of Fame numbers while starring in the Negro League for nine years, but also had an outstanding career in the Minor Leagues. In 1232 games in the Minor Leagues, Dandridge hit for a .331 career batting average. Dandridge played for the Triple A Minneapolis Millers in 1949 and hit .362. In his second year with the Millers, he led the American Association in hits with 195 base hits. Ray played at the Triple A level for five seasons from 1949 through the 1953 season and never got called up.

Lorenzo "Piper" Davis was another outstanding Negro League ball player who never got a chance to play in the Major Leagues. Piper broke into the Negro Leagues with the Birmingham Black Barons in 1942 and played with the Barons until 1950. Davis was a clutch hitter with a career batting average of .322 over his nine year Negro League career. He was also an outstanding fielder at second base. Piper and Artie Wilson provided one of the top middle infields in the Negro Leagues. He was selected to play in seven (7) Negro League All Star games. Davis was signed by the Boston Red Sox in 1950 and spent most of his nine (9) year Minor League career in the Pacific Coast League. In the Pacific Coast League, which was a Triple A classification; Piper had a career batting average of .283. Like most Negro League ball players, Piper played winter ball in Latin America on teams with white, black and Latin players. During his winter league career, he consistently hit .300. But in the end, Piper Davis was never called up to the Boston Red Sox.

Luke Easter played in the Major Leagues with the Cleveland Indians from 1949 to 1953. He also had an outstanding Minor League career. Over his Minor League career he hit 269 homeruns, had 923 runs batted in and had a career Minor League batting average of .296. Some of the highlights of his Minor League career are:

- While playing for Buffalo, led International League in homeruns 1956 (35) and 1957 (40)

- Led the International League in runs batted in (RBI) in 1956 (106) and in 1957 (128)
- Had 30 plus homerun seasons from 1955 to 1958: 1955 (30), 1956 (35), 1957 (40) and 1958 (38).
- In winter league baseball, led the league three times in home runs: Venezuelan League 1947-48 (8), Puerto Rican League 1948-49 (14) and Puerto Rican League 1955-56 (17).

Wilmer “Red” Fields won an unprecedented eight league Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards during his Minor League career.

Puerto Rican Winter League	1948-49
Inter County League	1951
Venezuelan League	1952-53
Canadian League	1953
Canadian League	1954
Michigan-Indiana League	1956
Colombian League	1956-57
NBC Wichita Tournament	1957

Horace Garner played for the Indianapolis Clowns during the 1949 season. In 1950, he was signed into organized ball by the Boston Braves. Garner spent his entire career in the Minor Leagues from 1951 through the 1961 season. In his first season in the Braves farm team organization, he played with Eau Claire of the Northern League and hit 15 home runs, had 96 runs batted in and had a batting average of .359. Over his Minor League career, Garner hit with power (156 home runs), hit in the clutch (752 runs batted in) and hit for average (.318). Garner like many other Negro League ball players never got a look see or a cup of coffee in the Big Leagues.

Buck Leonard was 40 years old when Jackie Robinson broke in with Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. When the Homestead Grays folded after the 1950 season, Leonard went to Mexico to play baseball from 1951-1953 and returned in 1955. Over these four years Buck hit 40 homeruns, had 233 runs batted in and had a .323 batting average. In his last season in professional baseball at the age of 48, Buck hit 13 homeruns, had 60 runs batted and hit .312 for Durango of the Mexican Central League. One can only wonder what kind of numbers Leonard could have put up if he had played his entire career in the Major Leagues.

Minnie Minoso played in the Major Leagues from 1949 to 1964 with the Cleveland Indians, Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Cardinals and Washington Senators. When Minoso retired from the Major Leagues, he went to Mexico and played everyday from 1965 to 1973. Over his nine seasons in the Mexican League, Minnie had a career Mexican League batting average of .320. After his Mexican League career, Minnie coached, managed and played for Puerto Vallarta, Cananea and Leon in Mexico. Minoso retired from professional baseball at the age of 53.

Charles “Mule” Peete was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1953. Over his four years in the Minor Leagues, Peete had a batting average of .311. Mule had a breakout season in 1956 at Omaha of the American Association when he won the league batting championship with a .350 batting average. He also had 16 homeruns and 63 runs batted in his 116 games for Omaha. During the 1956 off-season, Peete went to Venezuela to play for Caracas. He was tragically killed in an airplane crash on November 27, 1956. A bright baseball career was gone.

Art “Superman” Pennington played for the Chicago American Giants from 1940 to 1946 and 1950 to 1951. He also played in the Minor League from 1946 through the 1958 season. During his Minor League career Pennington had a career batting average of .323. Bottom line is that Superman could flat out hit the ball. Even in his final Minor League season of 1958, Pennington hit .339 with St. Petersburg of the Florida State League. But for whatever reason, Art never got a “shot.”

Satchel Paige posted some of the most amazing Minor League statistics for a former Negro League player when he pitched for the Miami Marlins of the International League from 1956 through 1958. Paige was 50 years old when he was signed to pitch for the Triple A Miami team in 1956. Over the course of these three seasons Satchel’s pitching statistics were as follows:

Year	Satchel’s Age	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1956	50	27	111	11	4	23	28	79	1.86
1957	51	40	119	10	8	32	11	76	2.42
1958	52	28	110	10	10	36	15	40	2.95

At over 50 years of age Satchel still had phenomenal control (less than one and a half walks per 9 innings), was still able to strike out batters, get people out and posted an earned run average of 2.40 over the three seasons.

Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright went to Mexico after finishing his Negro National League season with the Baltimore Elite Giants and spent most of the rest of his professional baseball career south of the border. Wright won two Mexican League batting titles: 1941 (.390) and 1943 (.366). During the 1943 season, Wright also won the Mexican League Triple Crown (13 homeruns, 70 runs batted in and .366 batting average). He was inducted into the Mexican Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982.

Of all the Negro League players who never got a shot in organized baseball, the career of **Ike Jackson** is one of the most baffling. Jackson played for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1951 and 1952 before Baird sold his contract to Major League baseball. In his first season in Minor League ball, Ike hit 18 home runs with 101 runs batted in while hitting for a .388 batting average with Carlsbad of the Longhorn League. Jackson was a catcher who was extremely versatile on the playing field. Over his four-year career in the Minor Leagues he also played first base and the outfield. In 1956, his last season in professional baseball with Midland of the Southwest League, Ike hit 31 homeruns, had 138 runs batted in and hit for a .347 batting average. Jackson played his Minor League ball from 1953 through 1956 in the low minors. Over his four year Minor League career, Ike caught, hit for power (averaged over 20 homeruns a year with a slugging percentage of .586), was a clutch hitter (averaged over 120 runs batted in a season) and hit for average (.355 career Minor League batting average). Not only did he never get a shot at the Majors, but he never moved up in the Minor League system. The unanswered questions from this researcher’s perspective are:

- What Major League team couldn’t use a catcher who could hit for power, drive in runs and hit for average?

or

- What Minor League teams higher up the ladder couldn’t use a player like Ike Jackson?

Some of the outstanding individual season performances of Negro League players in the Minor Leagues are:

- **Hank Aaron** (Jacksonville) won the South Atlantic League batting championship in 1953 with a .362 batting average. Aaron also led the league in hits (208), runs (115), doubles (36) and runs batted in (125).
- **Sandy Amoros** (Montreal) won the International League batting title in 1954 with a .353 batting average. Amoros also led the International League in hits (190), runs scored (128) and doubles (40) this same year.
- **Dan Bankhead** (Nashua) led the New England League in wins (20) and strikeouts (143) in 1948.
- **Frank Barnes** (Reynosa) led the Mexican League in earned run average with a 1.58 ERA in 1965.
- **Dave Barnhill** (Miami Beach) posted an earned run average of 1.19 and a won loss record of 13-8 in 28 games in the Florida International League in 1952.
- **Pablo Bernard** (Nuevo Laredo) won the Mexican League batting title in 1958 with a .371 batting average. Bernard also led the league in hits (182) and runs scored (106) this same year.
- **Bob “The Rope” Boyd** (Seattle) won the Pacific Coast League batting championship in 1952 with a .320 batting average.
- **Ollie Brantley** (Eugene) led the Northwest League in innings pitched (264) and wins (22) during the 1957 season.
- **Marshall Bridges** (Topeka) led the Western League in wins with 18 and strikeouts with 213 in 1956. Bridges also led the Pacific Coast League in wins with 16 and strikeouts in 1958 with 205 while pitching for Sacramento.
- **Willard “Homerun” Brown** dominated the Puerto Rican Winter League during the mid and late 1940’s while playing for Santurce. Brown won three batting titles (1946-47 - .390, 1947-48 - .432 and 1949-50 - .353), three homerun titles (1947-48 – 27, 1948-49 – 18 and 1949-50 – 16) and four runs batted in titles (1946-47 – 50, 1947-48 – 86, 1949-50 – 97 and 1950-51 – 76).
- **Lorenzo Cabrera** (Mexico City) won the Mexican League batting championship in 1950 with a .354 batting average.
- **Luis Cabrera** (Bristol) posted an earned run average of 1.41 with a won-loss record of 11-1 in 14 Colonial League games in 1950.
- **Joe Caffie** (Duluth) won the Northern League batting title in 1952 with a .342 batting average. Caffie also led the league in hits (171), runs scored (105), times at bat (500) and triples (18) this same year.

- **Joe Caffie** (Buffalo) won the International League batting championship in 1957 with a .330 batting average.
- **James “Buzz” Clarkson** (St. Jean) led the Canadian Provincial League in homeruns with 28 in 1948. He also batted .399 during the 1948 season.
- **James “Buzz” Clarkson** (Beaumont and Dallas) led the Texas League in homeruns with 42 in 1954.
- **George Crowe** (Hartford) won the Eastern League batting title in 1950 with a .353 batting average. Crowe also led the league in hits (185), runs scored (122) games played (139) and doubles (43) this same year.
- **George Crowe** (Toledo) won the American Association in home run and runs batted in titles in 1954 with 34 homeruns and 128 runs batted in
- **George Crowe** (Caguas) won the Puerto Rican Winter League batting title with a .375 batting average during the 1950-51 season. Crowe also led the league in hits (107) this same year.
- **George Crowe** (San Juan) won the Puerto Rican Winter League Triple Crown for the 1951-52 season with 9 homeruns, 70 runs batted in and a .396 batting average. Crowe also led the league in doubles (23) this same season.
- **Ray Dandridge** (Vera Cruz) won the Mexican League batting title in 1948 with a .373 batting average.
- **Lomax “Butch” Davis** (Winnipeg) won the Mandak League batting championship in 1950 with a batting average of an amazing .456.
- **Lino Donso (Aguila)** led the Mexican League three straight years in strikeouts: 1951 (197), 1952 (235) and 1953 (160).
- **Luke Easter** (Buffalo) won the International League homerun and runs batted in titles in 1956 and 1957. Easter hit 35 homeruns (1956) and drove in 106 runs in 1956. He followed the next year (1957) with 40 homeruns and 128 runs batted in. Easter also won three league homerun titles playing winter baseball: Venezuelan League 8 homeruns in 1947-48, Puerto Rican Winter League 14 homeruns in 1948-49 and Puerto Rican Winter League 17 homeruns in 1957-58.
- **Wilmer “Red” Fields** (Caracas) won the Venezuelan League batting title with a .348 batting average during the 1951-52 season.
- **Wilmer “Red” Fields** (Brantford) won the Canadian League batting title in 1954 with a .379 batting average.
- **Rene Gonzalez** (Aguila) won the Mexican League Triple Crown in 1952 with 21 homeruns, 84 runs batted in and a .370 batting average. Gonzalez also won the Mexican League batting title in 1953 with a .343 batting average. In 1954 Gonzalez won the Mexican League homerun title for a second time with another 21 homeruns. Rene would

also win the Venezuelan home run and runs batted in titles during the 1950-51 season with 10 homeruns and 56 runs batted in.

- **Silvio Garcia** (Sherbrooke) won the Triple Crown of the Canadian Provincial League in 1950 with 21 homeruns, 116 runs batted in and a .365 batting average.
- **Charles “Chuck” Harmon** (Olean) led the league in games (125), times at bat (551), hits (206), doubles (47) and runs batted in (139) during the 1950 Pony League season. Harmon also hit .374 for this season. The next season (1951), Harmon played for Olean, batted .375 and drove in 143 runs.
- **Charles “Chuck” Harmon** (Burlington) led the league in games (124), hits (153), doubles (34) and stolen bases (43) during the 1953 Three I League season.
- **Billy Harrell** (Reading) won the Eastern League Most Valuable Player Award in 1953. Harrell hit for a .330 average and had 84 runs batted in.
- **Jehosie “Jay” Heard** (Victoria) led the Western International League in strikeouts with 216 during the 1952 season. He also won 20 games and posted a 2.94 ERA in his first season in Minor League baseball.
- **Juan Francisco “Pancho” Herrera** won four league homerun titles during his Minor League career: International League (1959 - 39 HR), International League (1962 - 32 HR), International League (1965 - 21 HR) and Mexican Southeast League (1969 - 39 HR). Herrera also won three league runs batted in titles: International League (1959 - 128 RBI), International League (1962 - 108 RBI) and Mexican Southeast League (1969 - 106 RBI).
- **Dave Hoskins** (Dallas) led all Texas League pitchers in innings pitched (280) and wins (22) in 1952.
- **Ike Jackson** (Carlsbad) got his Minor League career off to a tremendous start in 1953 in the Longhorn League. Jackson hit 18 homeruns, had 101 runs batted in and posted a .388 batting average.
- **Sam Jethroe** (Montreal) had an outstanding season in the International League in 1949. Jethroe led the league in runs scored (154), hits (207), triples (19) and stolen bases (89).
- **Sam Jethroe** won nine (9) stolen base titles over his career: five (5) in Negro American League (1944-1948), two (2) in the International League in 1949 with 89 stolen bases and 1957 with 24 steals and two (2) in the National League in 1950 and 1951,
- **Connie Johnson** (St. Hyacinthe) led all pitchers in the Provincial League with 172 strikeouts during the 1951 season. The next season (1952) Johnson also led all pitchers in the Western League in strikeouts with 233 while playing for Colorado Springs.
- **Louis “Sweet Lou” Johnson** (Paris) won the Midwest League batting title in 1958 with a .365 batting average. Johnson also won the Puerto Rican Winter League batting title for the 1964-65 season with a .342 batting average.

- **Sam Jones** led the league in strikeouts for seven different years in the Minor and Major Leagues.

Year	Team	League	Number of Strikeouts
1950	Wilkes-Barre	Eastern	169
1951	San Diego	PCL	246
1951-52	San Juan	Puerto Rico	140
1954-55	Santurce	Puerto Rico	171
1955	Chicago	National	198
1956	Chicago	National	176
1958	St. Louis	National	225

- **James “Lefty” La Marque** (Mexico City) in his only season in the Minor Leagues, he led the Mexican League in wins with 19 victories.
- **Luis Marquez** (Dallas) won the batting title of the American Association with a .345 batting average in 1959.
- **Willie Mays** got his career with the New York Giants off to a spectacular start in 1950 with Trenton (Interstate League) by hitting .353 in 81 games. The next season Mays was hitting .477 in 35 games for Minneapolis (American Association) when the Giants called him up to the Majors.
- **Edward Locke** led his league in wins for a pitcher in three different seasons.

Year	Team	League	Number of Wins
1957	Monterrey	Mexican	18
1957-58	Cordoba	Mexican Winter League	19
1958	Monterrey	Mexican	19

Locke also posted three 20 win seasons in the Minors: Amarillo (1953- 21 wins), Artesia (1955 – 20 wins) and Monterrey (1959 -21 wins).

- **Booker Mc Daniel** led the Mexican League two straight years in strikeouts: San Luis (1946 – 171 strikeouts) and Vera Cruz (1947 – 127 strikeouts).
- **Nate Moreland** had three twenty win seasons in Mexico during his Minor League career.

Year	Team	League	Number of Wins
1947	El Centro	Sunset	20
1953	Mexicali	Arizona-Mexico	20
1954	Mexicali	Arizona-Mexico	22

- **Don Newcombe** (Nashua) won the New England League in wins (19) and strikeouts (186) in 1947.
- **Al Osorio** (Denver) led the Western League in wins (20) in 1952.

- **Clyde Parris** (Montreal) won the International League batting title in 1956 with a .321 batting average. Parris also won the batting championship of the Panama League for the 1959-60 season while hitting .434 for Comercios.
- **Charles “Mule” Peete** (Omaha) won the American Association batting title in 1956 with a .350 batting average. Peete was killed during the off-season of that year with his family in a plane crash in Venezuela.
- **Jim Pendleton** (Magallanes) won the Venezuelan League batting title for the 1949-50 season with a .387 batting average.
- **Dave Pope** (Indianapolis) won the American Association batting title in 1952 with a .352 batting average. While playing for Gavilanes of the Venezuelan League, Pope won the Venezuelan League batting title for the 1953-54 season with a .345 batting average.
- **Bobby Prescott** (Vera Cruz) won the Mexican League homerun title in 1965 (32 homeruns) and again in 1966 (41 homeruns). Prescott also led the Mexican League in runs batted in 1966 with 122 runs batted in and 1968 with 84 runs batted in.
- **Jackie Robinson** (Montreal) had an outstanding season in the International League in 1946 (113 runs scored, 66 runs batted in, 40 stolen bases and .349 batting average). Robinson was rewarded with his efforts by being named the International League Rookie of the Year.
- **Jose Santiago** (Dayton) led the Central League in strikeouts (233) in 1949.
- **Jose Santiago** (Wilkes-Barre) led the Eastern League in wins (21) and earned run average (1.59) in 1951.
- **Pat Scantlebury** (Texarkana) led the Big State League in wins (24) and strikeouts (177) in 1953.
- **Pat Scantlebury** (Havana) led the International League in earned run average with a 1.90 ERA in 1955.
- **Harry “Suitcase” Simpson** (Wilkes-Barre) won the homerun and runs batted in titles of the Eastern League in 1949 with 31 homeruns and 120 runs batted in. The next year (1950) Simpson won the runs batted in title of the Pacific Coast League with 156 runs batted in while playing for San Diego.
- **Theo Smith** (Mexico City) led the Mexican League in wins (22) in 1947.
- **Robert Trice** (St. Hyacinthe) led the Canadian Provincial League in wins (16) in 1952. Trice also led the International League with wins (21) in 1953 while playing for Ottawa.
- **James Tugerson** (Knoxville) led the Mountain States League in wins with 29 and in strikeouts with 286 in 1953. This was his first year in “white” organized baseball. Tugerson also led the Texas League in strikeouts in 1958 with 199 while pitching for the Dallas Eagles.

- **Roberto Vargas** (Macon) led the South Atlantic League in earned run average (1.79) in 1958. Vargas also led the Mexican League in earned run average (2.55) in 1959 while playing with Poza Rico.
- **Luis Villodas** (Cibaenas) won the Dominican Summer League batting title in 1951 with a .346 batting average.
- **Roy Welmaker** (Wilkes-Barre) at the age of 36 led the Eastern League in innings pitched with 254 and posted an ERA of 2.44 in 1949. He also won 22 games during the 1949 season.
- **Leonard Williams** (Topeka) had an outstanding season in the Western League in 1957 with 43 homeruns, 113 runs batted in and a .316 batting average. Williams carried his hot streak to Willard of the Colombian League and won the Triple Crown for the 1957-58 season with 14 homeruns, 52 runs batted in and a .313 batting average.
- **Marvin Williams** (Chihuahua) won the Arizona-Texas League homerun and batting titles in 1952 with 45 homeruns and a .401 batting average.
- **Marvin Williams** (Mexico City) won the Mexican League homerun and runs batted in titles in 1959 with 29 homeruns and 109 runs batted in.
- **Robert Wilson** won two batting championships in winter ball: Dominican League (1955-56 - .333) and Venezuelan League (1956-57 - .350).

Other unanswered questions that one may ponder related to Negro League players in the Minor Leagues are:

- **Lincoln Boyd** as a young man in his early twenties spent three years at Clovis (West Texas New Mexico League). Boyd responded and hit extremely well. Lincoln hit 93 homeruns, had 338 runs batted in and had a .323 batting average for these three years. In 1955, Boyd hit 44 homeruns, 157 runs batted in and a .340 batting average. After posting these big numbers, Boyd was never called up to the Majors or even moved up in the Minor League system. What happened?
- **Bernell “Chick” Longest** played for the Chicago American Giants in 1946 and 1947. He left the Negro Leagues to play in Mexico and Canada. Longest played four years in the minors from 1951-1955. Chick never hit below .318 and ended his Minor League career with a .334 batting average. Why was no Major League team interested in signing him?
- **Ed Locke** was a pitcher who could hit and play the outfield when needed. Ed played in the Minors for 12 seasons, won over 170 games and hit .305. Still Locke never received any attention from the Majors. Why not? You would have thought at least one Major League team would like to have had a pitcher who could hit on their team.
- **Richard Newberry** had excellent speed and hit over .300 four years in a row with Duluth and never made it out of the Northern League. Why?
- **Butch Lomax** hit over .400 twice and only lasted 244 games in the Minor Leagues. Why?

Negro League Players - Minor League Batting Statistics *
(Players with Limited Major League Experience)

Player	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
Tom Alston	630	2317	383	681	114	29	71	377	38	.294
Sandy Amoros	876	3163	648	981	185	46	121	517	97	.310
Dan Bankhead	810	2153	354	672	109	28	42	348	41	.312
Bob Boyd	933	3493	535	1120	187	69	53	464	110	.321
Willard Brown	665	2805	428	870	152	15	103	544	36	.310
Joe Caffie	1221	4422	690	1286	231	65	77	500	163	.291
James Clarkson	1070	3590	722	1150	180	24	189	751	74	.320
Luke Easter	1327	4150	677	1227	224	17	269	919	6	.296
Sam Hairston	1147	3994	580	1215	248	35	53	635	20	.304
Chuck Harmon	1027	3911	675	1253	228	68	82	690	143	.320
Pancho Herrera	1912	6344	1006	1870	280	42	321	1174	86	.295
Sam Jethroe	1028	3750	752	1108	189	62	119	457	232	.295
Luis Marquez	1867	6677	1118	2052	365	81	186	948	221	.307
Bobby Prescott	2268	7482	1373	2195	395	57	398	1531	50	.293
Curt Roberts	1524	5724	970	1677	299	40	87	635	120	.293
Hector Rodriguez	2275	8255	1255	2390	313	114	54	869	226	.290
Harry Simpson	1030	3583	648	1074	174	60	162	707	16	.300
Joe Cephus Taylor	1496	5283	897	1556	289	39	264	955	78	.295
Artie Wilson	1331	5152	782	1609	158	79	8	374	161	.312
Robert Wilson	1358	5176	725	1610	312	42	100	747	80	.311

Negro League Players - Minor League Pitching Statistics *
(Players with Limited Major League Experience)

Player	Years	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
Dan Bankhead	13	309	1092	89	42	461	628	673	3.80
Frank Barnes	18	430	2444	172	117	835	1005	1851	3.07
Marshall Bridges	11	278	1189	74	59	519	640	1004	3.93
Lino Donso	13	453	2370	160	113	785	753	1685	2.98
Bill Greason	10	266	1382	89	67	614	792	941	4.00
Jehosie Heard	6	215	970	61	54	384	396	569	3.56
Dave Hoskins	11	271	1455	85	74	622	418	646	3.85
Connie Johnson	8	185	1034	77	44	390	426	783	3.39
Sam Jones	10	385	1280	104	66	428	709	1101	3.01
Jim Proctor	9	190	869	59	41	295	302	539	3.05
Jose Santiago	12	306	1566	115	86	561	582	1107	3.22
Pat Scantlebury	10	407	1804	125	89	679	599	1079	3.39
Robert Trice	8	181	1049	72	60	458	393	341	3.93
Roberto Vargas	11	355	1619	109	90	567	648	857	3.15

Negro League Players - Minor League Batting Statistics *
(Players with No Major League Experience)

Player	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
Mario Ariosa	1725	6013	975	1851	273	49	113	840	135	.308
Pablo Bernard	1362	5034	790	1462	224	62	59	579	123	.290
Herberto Blanco	813	3292	551	950	130	35	23	384	109	.288
Lincoln Boyd	480	1714	374	502	98	9	108	431	25	.292
Avelino Canizares	933	3742	731	1100	171	44	23	344	158	.294
Gene Collins	863	3073	508	890	162	34	92	452	48	.290
Aljeandro Crespo	888	3904	661	1233	221	72	70	735	86	.316

Ray Dandridge	1232	5035	859	1669	277	38	69	732	130	.331
Lorenzo Davis	979	3142	373	872	163	27	62	413	28	.278
Rene Friol	1598	5323	699	1600	241	44	161	866	61	.301
Silvio Garcia	937	4348	782	1441	261	36	92	798	194	.331
Horace Garner	997	3436	683	1094	179	38	156	752	97	.318
Nap Gulley	692	2488	440	790	170	23	75	521	47	.318
Rene Gonzalez	777	2912	551	956	170	28	131	619	52	.328
George Handy	763	2816	525	905	134	22	72	467	64	.321
Leonard Hunt	403	1449	293	464	84	39	26	204	40	.320
Ike Jackson	518	2072	443	736	150	34	87	483	23	.355
Earnest Johnson	735	2807	426	837	128	29	61	400	40	.298
Leon Kellman	566	1886	371	582	94	20	48	326	25	.309
Butch Lomax	244	936	-	335	-	-	23	165	-	.358
Clinton Mc Cord	1312	4682	757	1435	279	64	89	701	68	.306
Clyde Mc Neal	453	1576	279	441	89	10	61	279	45	.280
Richard Newberry	461	1849	388	577	90	41	21	268	93	.312
Clyde Parris	1183	4276	628	1266	233	35	127	706	55	.296
Fernando Pedroso	564	2252	385	742	106	31	48	389	36	.329
Nate Peeples	978	3229	623	939	135	25	122	592	218	.291
Art Pennington	917	3223	662	1016	142	50	74	527	102	.315
Alonzo Perry	1021	3782	776	1320	238	65	179	888	89	.349
Al Pinkston	1827	6729	1193	2368	461	75	250	1135	82	.352
John Ritchey	987	2848	427	853	119	31	29	413	87	.300
Bonnie Serrell	1068	4347	713	1357	221	80	67	654	107	.312
Quincy Smith	653	2584	576	788	165	55	45	418	174	.305
Earl Taborn	856	2807	417	787	96	13	106	488	34	.280
Len Tucker	1090	4046	924	1274	208	53	236	902	257	.315
Leonard Williams	789	3015	551	896	130	33	156	581	37	.297
Marvin Williams	1428	5069	1005	1602	290	75	244	1071	72	.316
Lester Witherspoon	415	1491	303	481	88	36	40	299	46	.323
Burnis Wright	905	3438	646	1146	195	58	78	588	157	.333
Jim Zapp	354	1320	266	407	74	11	90	351	16	.308

Negro League Players - Minor League Pitching Statistics *
(Players with No Major League Experience)

Player	Years	Games	Innings Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA	
Ramon Bragana	18	542	3376	211	162	1340	1406	1372	3.57
Ollie Brantley	16	590	1798	135	99	707	540	1230	3.54
Barney Brown	10	202	1228	100	60	475	451	683	3.48
Raymond Brown	7	149	957	63	46	352	405	417	3.31
Leon Day	7	142	672	47	37	288	367	299	3.86
Raul Galata	14	276	1438	81	88	623	873	886	3.90
Edward Locke	12	430	2349	170	132	977	685	1422	3.74
Booker Mc Daniels	6	185	880	52	60	396	577	503	4.05
Nate Moreland	13	455	2548	178	138	1152	1000	1308	4.07
Alberto Osorio	23	727	3558	227	170	1460	798	1730	3.69
Willie Pope	6	177	1093	65	60	431	401	699	3.55
William Powell	10	325	1385	71	86	651	732	739	4.23
Wilfredo Salas	9	244	1271	74	75	486	687	793	3.44
John Ford Smith	6	143	825	61	40	370	421	501	4.04
Theo Smith	13	373	2154	148	119	971	1008	870	4.06
James Tugerson	6	235	1352	86	71	550	495	1038	3.66
Sam Williams	8	246	1298	87	76	629	434	611	4.36

* Records may not be complete

Regardless of how many black players signed with Major League baseball organizations and played in their Minor League systems, the fact is that a large number of black ball players who had the talent never got the opportunity to play in the Major Leagues. The obvious question is why did so many Major League teams keep high quality players in their Minor League systems with no intentions of promoting them to the Majors? The most logical conclusion that we came up with from our interviews and research was that many Major League teams didn't want to use

black players in the Big Leagues and at the same time didn't want another Major League team signing the player and run the risk of playing against that player in the Majors.

The following chart identifies black players who were influential in breaking the color barrier in Minor League baseball.

Players Influential in Breaking the Color Barrier in Minor League Baseball

Year	Player	Minor League Team	League
1946	* Jackie Robinson	Montreal Royals	International League
	* Roy Campanella	Nashua	New England League
	Don Newcombe	Nashua	New England League
	Roy Partlow	Montreal Royals	International League
	Roy Partlow	Three Rivers	Canadian American League
	John Wright	Montreal Royals	International league
	* John Wright	Three Rivers	Canadian American League
1947	Chuck Harmon	Gloversville	Canadian American League
	Nate Moreland	El Centro	Sunset League
	Albert Preston	Stamford	Colonial League
	* Carlos Santiago	Stamford	Colonial League
	Fred Shepard	Stamford	Colonial League
1948	Dan Bankhead	Nashua	New England League
	* Dan Bankhead	St. Paul Saints	American Association
	* Dave Hoskins	Grand Rapids	Central League
	Sam Jethroe	Montreal Royals	International League
	Minnie Minoso	Dayton	Central League
	* John Ritchey	San Diego	Pacific Coast League
	Al Smith	Wilkes-Barre	Eastern League
1949	James Austin	Newark	International League
	James Austin	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast League
	Dan Bankhead	Montreal Royals	International League
	Dave Barnhill	Minneapolis Millers	American Association
	Eugene Bremmer	Cedar Rapids	Three III League
	Ernest Burke	Kingston	Colonial League
	Luis Cabrera	Bristol	Colonial League
	Joe Campini	Bangor	North Atlantic League
	Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton	Dayton	Central League
	Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton	Pittsfield	Canadian-American League
	Ray Dandridge	Minneapolis Millers	American Association
	Luke Easter	San Diego	Pacific Coast League
	George Handy	Bridgeport	Colonial League
	Chuck Harmon	Olean	Pony League
	Monte Irvin	Jersey City	International League
	Walt Mc Coy	Visalia	California League
	Maurice Peatross	Geneva	Border League
	Jim Pendleton	St. Paul Saints	American Association
	Jose Santiago	Dayton	Central League
	Harry Simpson	Wilkes-Barre	Eastern League
	Quincy Smith	Belleville	Mississippi Ohio Valley League
	Hank Thompson	Jersey City	International League

	Robert Thurman Emlen Tunnell Robert Turner Roy Welmaker Ladd White Artie Wilson Parnell Woods	Newark Cedar Rapids Berwick Wilkes-Barre Leavenworth San Diego Oakland	International League Central Association North Atlantic League Eastern League Western Association Pacific Coast League Pacific Coast League
1950	Joseph Atkins Gene Baker Frank Barnes Pablo Bernard Bob Boyd Willard Brown Billy Bruton Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton George Crowe Lorenzo "Piper" Davis Stanley Glenn Napoleon Gulley Sam Hairston Leonard Hunt Sam Jones Willie Mays John "Mule" Miles Lee Moody George Nicholson Chris Randolph Antonio Ruiz James Wilkes	Fargo Des Moines Muskegon Ventura Colorado Springs Ottawa Eau Claire Bears Wilkes-Barre Hartford Scranton Hartford Visalia Colorado Springs Springfield Wilkes-Barre Trenton Giants Laredo Apaches Cairo Phoenix Paris Lakers Juarez Elmira	Northern League Western League Central League California League Western League Border League Northern League Eastern League Eastern League Eastern League Eastern League California League Western League Mississippi-Ohio Valley league Eastern League Interstate League Gulf Coast League Kitty League Arizona-Texas League Mississippi-Ohio Valley League Arizona Texas League Eastern League
1951	Pablo Bernard Jose Burgos Joe Caffie Joe Caffie Gene Collins Leon Day Wilmer Fields Horace Garner Willie Grace Paul Henry * Percy Miller, Jr. Gabriel Patterson Bonnie Serrell * J.W. Wingate	Denver Lakeland Duluth Harrisburg Waterloo Toronto Toronto Eau Claire Bears Erie Flint Danville Leafs Butler Yakima Lamesa Lobos	Western League Florida State League Northern League Interstate League Three III League International League International League Northern League Mid Atlantic League Central League Carolina League Mid Atlantic League Western International League West Texas-New Mexico League
1952	Hank Aaron Tom Alston * Dave Barnhill Chet Brewer Sherwood Brewer Harry Butts Avelino Canizares * Napoleon Daniels Luther Branham	Eau Claire Bears Porterville Miami Beach Riverside Ardmore Vancouver Keokuk Sherman Victoria	Northern League Southwest International League Florida International League Southwest International League Sooner State League Western International League Three III League Sooner State League Western International League

	Claro Duany	Tampa	Florida International League
	Charlie England	Rocky Mount	Coastal Plain League
	Benny Felder	Key West	Florida International League
	* George Handy	Mimi Beach	Florida International League
	* Rufus Hatten	Bluefield	Appalachain League
	* Dave Hoskins	Dallas Eagles	Texas League
	Rufus Lewis	Chihuahua	Arizona Texas League
	* Ray Mitchell	Longview	Big State League
	* David Mobley	Rock Hill Chiefs	Tri State League
	Charlie Roach	New Bern	Coastal Plain League
	John Ford Smith	Phoenix	Arizona Texas League
	* Mickey Stubblefield	Paducah	Kitty League
	Lester Witherspoon	Porterville	Southwest International League
1953	Hank Aaron	Jacksonville	Sally League
	Lincoln Boyd	Leesburg	Florida State League
	Harry Butts	Portsmouth	Piedmont League
	Ernest Chretien	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast league
	Leonard Hunt	Texarkana	Big State League
	Pat Scantlebury	Texarkana	Big State League
	* James Tugerson	Hot Springs Bathers	Cotton States League
	James Tugerson	Knoxville	Mountain States League
	* Leander Tugerson	Hot Springs Bathers	Cotton States League
	Leander Tugerson	Knoxville	Mountain States League
	* Eugene White	Portsmouth Merrimacs	Piedmont League
1954	* Nat Peeples	Atlanta Crackers	Southern Association
	Aldo Salvent	Knoxville Smokies	Tri State League
	James Tugerson	Artesia	Longhorn League
	Armando Vasquez	Thibodaux	Evangeline League
	Luis Villodas	Borger	West Texas New Mexico League
1955	Alonzo Braithwaite	Johnstown	Eastern League
	Vibert Clarke	Charlotte	South Atlantic League
1956	* Felipe Alou	Lake Charles Giants	Evangeline League
	Henry Baylis	El Paso	Southwest League
	Alonzo Braithwaite	Abilene	Big State League
	* Ralph Crosby	Lake Charles Giants	Evangeline League
	* Charles Weatherspoon	Lake Charles Giants	Evangeline League
1957	Manny Mota	Michigan City	Midwest League

* Denotes being the first black player in that league.

What Happened to Dan Bankhead?

Of all the Negro League players that signed with Major League baseball teams, the career of Dan Bankhead may be the most mystifying. Bankhead was born in 1920 and played in the Negro Leagues with his four brothers. He pitched in the Negro Leagues with the Chicago American Giants, Birmingham Black Barons and Memphis Red Sox from 1940-1947. Dan made the Negro League All Star team in 1941, 1946 and 1947. One thing that hurt his Negro League career was that he lost all or parts of three seasons (1943-1945) to military service during World War II. He signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers on August 25, 1947 and was slated to pitch in the Major Leagues the next day. The highlight of his first season was hitting a homerun in his first Major

League at bat. Bankhead also has the distinction of being the first black pitcher in the Major Leagues when he debuted on August 26, 1947 in a relief appearance against the Pittsburgh Pirates. On the mound, he was ineffective in four appearances. Dan spent the 1948 season with Nashua of the New England League and responded with a 20 win season. Based on his outstanding performance, he was promoted to Montreal of the International League (Brooklyn Dodgers AAA farm team) for the 1949 season. Dan again played very well, posting another 20 game win season and led the league in strikeouts with 176. During the off-season of 1949-50, Bankhead pitched for Caguas of the Puerto Rican Winter League. Dan put up excellent numbers: winning 10 games, leading the league in strikeouts (133) and leading Caguas to the league championship. Bankhead made the Brooklyn Dodgers Major League roster once again in 1950 and posted a respectable 9-4 record in 41 games. The 1951 and 1952 seasons proved to be a series of hard luck experiences. Bankhead's Minor Leagues statistics for the United States, Canada and the Dominican Republic were:

**Minor League Career Hitting Statistics
(United States, Canada and Dominican Republic)**

Years	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
5	185	502	81	149	21	6	6	77	5	.297	.398

**Minor League Career Pitching Statistics
(United States, Canada and Dominican Republic)**

Years	Games	Innings Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
5	140	608	46	21	205	379	3.03

In 1954 Bankhead traveled south of the border to Mexico and reinvented himself as a first baseman, infielder, outfielder and part time pitcher. Bankhead would never return to the Major Leagues and spent the rest of his professional career from 1954 to 1966 moving from one Mexican League team to another. As Dan's career unfolded it is unclear if he should have been a pitcher or concentrated on playing in the field as a first baseman or outfielder. Dan fared much better as a hitter (28 homeruns, 218 runs batted in, .305 batting average and .439 slugging average) during his 12 seasons in the Mexican League. As a pitcher, he appeared in 160 games and posted a won-lost record of 35-21.

Bankhead's statistics for his twelve-year career in the Mexican League were:

Minor League Career Hitting Statistics (Mexico)

Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
625	1651	273	523	88	22	36	271	36	.317	.462

Minor League Career Pitching Statistics (Mexico)

Years	Games	Innings Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
13	169	484	43	21	256	249	4.76

Bankhead seemed to have such promise during his Negro League career and in his first two years of the Minors, but his Major League career to which he seemed destined to, never did materialize. Dan's statistics as a hitter and pitcher over his 17 seasons of Minor League seasons are as follows:

Minor League Career Hitting Statistics (Minor League)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
United States											
Canada & D.R.	185	502	81	149	21	6	6	77	5	.297	.398
Mexico	625	1651	273	523	88	22	36	271	36	.317	.462
Total	810	2153	354	672	109	28	42	348	41	.312	.447

Minor League Career Pitching Statistics (Minor League)

	Years	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
United States,									
Canada & D.R.	5	140	608	46	21	205	379	364	3.03
Mexico	13	169	484	43	21	256	249	309	4.76
Puerto Rico	6	-	-	48	33	-	299	565	-
Total		309	1092	137	75	461	927	1238	3.80

Dan Bankhead also enjoyed pitching success in the Puerto Rican Winter League. Bankhead pitched six winter league seasons in Puerto Rico. During his Puerto Rican Winter League career, he posted a won-loss record of 48-33, led the league twice in strikeouts (1946-47 with 179 and 1949-50 with 133) and showed a strong earned run average during several seasons (1949-50 – 2.59 ERA and 1962-63 – 1.83 ERA).

There are several explanations or theories as why Bankhead's career never did materialize.

- The first was that Bankhead had physical problems with his shoulder. In July of 1947 while still with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Bankhead developed a sore shoulder. The shoulder problem resulted from an old injury Bankhead had suffered as a teenager. This reason does not seem plausible because when Bankhead was sent down to Nashua of the New England League for the 1948 season, he put up huge numbers (20 win season, led the league in strikeouts and tossed a no-hitter). He also won four straight games at the end of the 1948 season when he was called up to St. Paul of the American Association (Brooklyn Dodgers AAA farm team). In addition Bankhead had an excellent season in St. Paul in 1949 when he won 20 games and led the league in strikeouts with 176.
- A second explanation is that Bankhead did not have the mental toughness nor the maturity to deal with the pressures of being a black man and playing in the Major Leagues. Branch Rickey was right in that it would take more than physical skills to be among the first blacks to play in the Major Leagues.
- A third explanation is that Branch Rickey pushed Bankhead to the Major Leagues too quickly. One day Bankhead was playing with the Memphis Red Sox in the Negro Leagues and a few days later he was in a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform. In Rickey's defense, the Dodgers needed pitching badly and Rickey felt Bankhead had all the physical tools to be a Major League pitcher.
- A fourth explanation is that Dan suffered by losing significant parts of three prime years (1943-1945) of baseball to military service.

- Bankhead's explanation with his problems in Brooklyn was that they stemmed from financial and personal problems. He had brought his family to live in New York and could not find an apartment for himself and his family. The end result was that they lived in an expensive hotel that took most of his salary.

Whatever the reason, there is no escaping that Bankhead had the physical tools and could have or should have been something special. In the end Bankhead's career remains a mystery.

- Bankhead dominated the Negro Leagues for five seasons in the 1940's. He made the East-West All Star team three of those years.
- Dan failed in his Major League debut.
- He met with success in 1948 and 1949 in the Dodgers Minor League organization.
- Bankhead pitched exceptionally well during the 1949-50 winter league season in Puerto Rico and earned his way back to the Major Leagues.
- His second shot with the Dodgers in 1950 and 1951 was only marginally successful.
- After his short Major League career was over, he struggled in Minor League ball in the United States, Dominican Republic and Canada before being destined to spend the rest of his career in Mexico.
- In Mexico Bankhead tried to reinvent himself as a first baseman and outfielder who could also pitch a little. Bankhead did meet with success as a hitter but never again showed the pitching skills that had him touted as "the next Satchel Paige" or "the colored Bob Feller."

Segregation and Baseball

After reviewing the integration of Major League baseball, the Center for Negro League Baseball Research defined three levels of segregation: closed segregation, selective segregation and segregation by choice. "Closed segregation" took place in baseball when before 1947 any person of color was barred from playing in the Major Leagues. Baseball went through a period of "selective segregation" from 1947 through the early 1960's, when select players were allowed to play in the Majors. During this period not all black ball players were given an equal opportunity to play in the Majors. If you were an impact player like Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Roy Campanella, Monte Irvin or Satchel Paige, you got a chance to play. But if you were black and not a Hall of Fame caliber ball player you may have been excluded just like prior to 1947. This from Dr. Revel's (Center for Negro League Baseball Research) perspective is even worse than "closed segregation." As a black ball player to be told the Major Leagues were integrated, not see real evidence of it and know that you didn't have a chance even if you had the skills would be even harder to deal with. "Segregation by choice" took place from the 1950's through the mid 1980's when there were still black semipro leagues, black barnstorming teams and black local teams. These black players played for these teams by choice.

Gone from the Game

Negro League baseball was dealt another blow in the late 1940's because many of their superstars were reaching the end of their playing careers. Soon to be gone from the game were future Hall of Famers: James "Cool Pappa" Bell, Raymond Brown, Leon Day, Ray Dandridge, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Raleigh "Biz" Mackey and Willie Wells. Other Negro League stars like Barney Brown, Jerry Benjamin, Chet Brewer, Bill Byrd, Vic Harris, Lester Lockett, Terris Mc Duffie, Roy Partlow, Alec Radcliffe, Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, David "Showboat" Thomas and Jim West were past their prime.

When Jackie Robinson signed with Branch Rickey and broke in with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, several Negro League greats were coming to the end of their careers or their age was a major deterrent from being signed by a Major League organization.

- **James "Cool Pappa" Bell** - Bell's last year in the Negro Leagues was 1946 when he played for the Homestead Grays, The remainder of his playing career was with the Detroit Black Senators (1947), Kansas City Royals (1948) and Kansas City Stars/Kansas City Travelers (1948-1950 as Manager and occasionally playing part time).
- **Raymond Brown** - In 1945, Brown was in his late 30's. Ray finished his Negro League career with the Homestead Grays (1947-1948). He then went to Mexico where he played from 1946-1949. Brown finished his professional baseball career in Canada where he pitched from 1950-1953.
- **Willard Brown** – When Jackie Robinson broke into the Major Leagues in 1947; Willard was already 36 years old. His professional baseball career had begun in 1934 with the Monroe Monarchs. Willard was still a highly regarded hitter in the Negro Leagues in the mid 1940's, so much that the St. Louis Browns signed him as one of their first black ball players and immediately promoted him to their Major League roster. Brown's stay in the Major Leagues was short lived. He appeared in only 21 games, hit one homerun, registered 6 runs batted in and posted a lowly .179 batting average. As Brown shared with his best friend Bill Beverly (Negro League pitcher from 1950-1955) and Dr. Revel during an interview in Houston, Texas:

"The pressure and indignities were unbearable, I was unhappy. I wasn't willing to put up with all that crap just to say I played Major League baseball. I knew I was a good player and that was enough for me."

After his stint with the St. Louis Browns, Brown went back to the Kansas City Monarchs and picked up where he had left off as the most dominant hitter in Negro League baseball. Willard gave organized baseball one more try when he spent four seasons in the Texas League from 1953 through 1956. During these seasons, Brown put up very respectable numbers during his Texas League career.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
1953	Dallas	138	522	91	162	36	2	23	108	3	.310
1954	Dallas Houston	144	583	92	183	36	4	35	120	2	.314
1955	Houston	149	544	73	164	34	4	19	104	3	.301
1956	Austin San Antonio Tulsa	104	351	50	105	17	0	14	73	2	.299

After his career in organized baseball, Brown went back to the Kansas City

Monarchs and played with them until the Negro American League folded in 1962.

- **Josh Gibson** – In 1945 when Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Josh Gibson was still putting up big numbers in Negro League play. In 1945 Josh hit .398 for the Homestead Grays of the Negro National League. In 1946, his final season in the Negro Leagues, Gibson would lead the league in homeruns with 16 and batted .361. Josh Gibson died on January 20, 1947 before seeing Jackie Robinson play in the Major Leagues.
- **Buck Leonard** – Buck was born in 1907 and was 38 years old in 1945. He was too old for any Major League baseball team to seriously consider signing. Buck continued to play for the Homestead Grays until they disbanded after the 1950 season. Still wanting to play professional baseball, Leonard went to Mexico and played with Torreon (Mexican League) from 1951-1953 and Durango (Mexican Central League) in 1954 and 1955.
- **Raleigh “Biz” Mackey** – Biz began his professional baseball career in 1918 with the San Antonio Black Aces. Even though he was still playing professional baseball in 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke in with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Mackey was already 50 years old. Even in his later years, Biz was still a formidable player. He hit .307 during the 1945 season and made the East West All Star game in 1947. His final year in professional baseball was managing the Houston Eagles in 1950.
- **Hilton Smith** – In 1947, Hilton was one year away from retiring from professional baseball. Smith had started playing professional baseball for the Austin Black Senators of the Texas Negro League before moving to the Monroe Monarchs where he pitched from 1932 through 1935. The majority of his career was spent with the Kansas City Monarchs. From 1936 through the 1948 season, Hilton Smith anchored the Monarchs pitching staff.
- **Willie Wells** – Wells was 40 years old in 1945 when Robinson signed with Brooklyn. During the last three years of Willie’s Negro League career (1945-1947), he played with the New York Black Yankees, Baltimore Elite Giants and Indianapolis Clowns. After this time most of Wells professional baseball career was as a coach and manager. During these years, Wells managed for the following teams: Memphis Red Sox (1948-1949), Winnipeg Buffalos of Mandak League (1949-1951), Brandon Greys of Mandak League (1952) and Birmingham Black Barons (1954).

All of these players made significant contributions in taking Negro League baseball to its pinnacle. All of the players profiled would be recognized by induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. However, none of these players would have an impact on the integration of black players into the Major and Minor Leagues.

The following chart identifies Negro League players who had starred in the Negro National League and Negro American League for many years and whose careers in professional baseball were coming to an end when Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 and broke into the Major Leagues in 1947. These players had long distinguished careers in the Negro Leagues. They were the superstars of black baseball. Nine of these players would be elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The National Baseball Hall of Famers from this group are James “Cool Pappa” Bell, Raymond Brown, Willard “Homerun” Brown, Josh Gibson, Walter “Buck” Leonard, Raleigh “Biz” Mackey, Hilton Smith, Turkey Stearnes and Willie Wells.

Negro League Players Who Missed a Shot at the Major Leagues

Player	Years in Negro League	Number of Seasons in Negro League	Year Born	Age in 1947
Newt Allen	1922-1947	24	1901	46
Sam Bankhead	1929-1950	20	1905	42
James "Cool Pappa" Bell	1922-1950	26	1903	44
Jerry Benjamin	1932-1948	16	1909	38
Alonzo Boone	1929-1950	15	1909	38
Chet Brewer	1925-1948	21	1907	40
Ameal Brooks	1929-1947	11	1906	41
Barney Brown	1931-1949	14	1909	38
Larry Brown	1919-1948	28	1905	42
Raymond Brown	1930-1948	18	1908	39
Willard Brown	1934-1951	16	1911	36
Fred Burnett	1921-1946	22	1901	46
Bill Byrd	1932-1950	18	1907	40
Ernest "Spoon" Carter	1932-1949	18	1902	45
Marlin Carter	1931-1948	15	1912	35
Robert "Eggie" Clark	1922-1946	25	1906	39
Pancho Coimbre	1940-1946	5	1909	38
Jimmy Crutchfield	1930-1945	15	1910	37
Homer "Goose" Curry	1928-1950	22	1905	42
Ducky Davenport	1934-1949	13	1911	36
Martin Dihigo	1923-1945	12	1905	42
Howard Easterling	1936-1949	10	1911	36
Felix "Chin" Evans	1934-1949	14	1911	36
James Ford	1931-1946	15	1912	35
Josh Gibson	1929-1946	17	1911	36
Joe "Pig" Greene	1932-1948	15	1911	36
Paul Hardy	1931-1952	17	1910	37
Vic Harris	1923-1950	26	1905	42
David Harvey	1931-1947	16	1908	39
Johnny Hayes	1934-1951	18	1910	37
Buster Haywood	1940-1954	15	1910	37
Sammy Hughes	1929-1946	14	1910	37
Cowan "Bubba" Hyde	1924-1950	18	1908	39
Willie Jefferson	1928-1946	17	1904	43
Henry Kimbro	1937-1953	17	1912	35
Buck Leonard	1933-1950	18	1907	40
Lester Lockett	1938-1950	12	1912	35
Wyman "Red" Longley	1932-1951	16	1909	38
Raleigh "Biz" Mackey	1918-1947	27	1897	50
Eldridge Mayweather	1934-1946	10	1910	37
Booker Mc Daniels	1940-1949	7	1912	35
Fred Mc Daniels	1939-1950	10	1912	35
Terris Mc Duffie	1930-1945	15	1910	37
Robert "Spoony" Palm	1927-1946	19	1908	39
Tom Parker	1929-1949	16	1911	36
Roy Partlow	1934-1950	13	1912	35
Andrew "Pat" Patterson	1934-1949	11	1911	36
Bill Perkins	1928-1948	16	1896	51
Alec Radcliffe	1932-1947	17	1905	42
Ted Radcliffe	1928-1950	26	1902	45

Neil Robinson	1934-1952	18	1908	39
Nat Rogers	1923-1946	24	1893	54
Leon Ruffin	1935-1950	11	1912	35
Dick Seay	1924-1947	21	1904	43
Hilton Smith	1931-1948	18	1912	35
Clyde Spearman	1932-1946	13	Unknown	-
Henry Spearman	1936-1946	11	1911	36
John Wesley Stanley	1928-1949	22	1905	42
Turkey Stearnes	1920-1945	23	1901	46
Ed Stone	1930-1950	21	1909	38
Jelly Taylor	1934-1946	12	1910	37
Raymond Taylor	1931-1946	15	1910	37
Dave Thomas	1928-1946	22	1905	42
Luis Tiant	1930-1947	12	1906	41
Tetelo Vargas	1927-1944	11	1906	41
Willie Wells	1924-1949	23	1905	42
Jim West	1930-1947	17	1912	35
Harry Williams	1931-1950	19	1905	42
Jud Wilson	1922-1945	24	1899	48
Parnell Woods	1933-1951	19	1912	35

The age of these players was most definitely a factor in their not being signed by Major League baseball. Although these players may have been past their prime, there was little to no consideration given to them playing in the Major Leagues. One of the things that several ball players did was to shave years off their birth dates. A good example was Dave Pope who played in the Negro National League with the Homestead Grays and in the Major Leagues for the Cleveland Indians. Dave had several birth dates depending on where you were looking. In an interview with Dr. Revel from the Center for Negro League Baseball Research, Dave shared with Dr. Revel that he had shaved 5 years off his real age when Major League baseball was looking at him.

The following chart identifies former Negro League players and black Latin players whom shaved years off their age to increase their chances of being signed by Major League baseball organizations.

Negro League Players and Black Latin Players Who Understated Their Age and Played in the Major Leagues

Player	Real Birthday Date	Major Birthday Date	Number of Years Shaved
Sandy Amoros	01-30-30	01-30-32	2
Bob Boyd	10-01-19	10-01-25	6
Bill Bruton	11-09-25	12-29-29	4
George Crowe	03-22-21	03-22-23	2
Luke Easter	08-04-15	08-04-21	6
Sam Jethroe	01-20-18	01-20-22	4
Hector Lopez	07-09-29	07-08-32	3
Roman Mejias	08-09-30	08-09-32	2
Ray Noble	03-15-19	03-15-22	3
Satchel Paige	07-07-06	09-22-08	2
Al Pinkston	10-22-17	10-22-26	9
Dave Pope	06-17-21	06-17-25	4

Vic Power	11-01-27	11-01-31	4
Bob Thurman	05-14-17	05-14-23	6

Unfortunately for Major League baseball and “white” baseball fans all over the United States, they just missed out on seeing some of baseball’s best players play in Major League stadiums. All of these players made significant contributions in taking Negro League baseball to its pinnacle.

To make matters worse, with the younger Negro League stars and up and coming players all signing with Major League baseball organization, the talent pool in the Negro Leagues was not being replaced. This help lead to the final demise of the Negro Leagues.

Negro Leaguers Move into Scouting

Even though many Negro League stars careers had or were about to come to an end when Major League baseball was integrated, several former Negro League players, managers and owners moved into scouting for Major League Baseball teams. A list of some of these Negro League players, managers and owners include:

Player	Major League Baseball Team Scouting Relationship
James “Cool Pappa” Bell	St. Louis Browns
Chet Brewer	Pittsburgh Pirates
Francisco Coimbre	Pittsburgh Pirates
Ray Dandridge	New York Giants
Felix Delgado	Kansas City Athletics
William “Dizzy” Dismukes	New York Yankees
John Donaldson	Chicago White Sox
Lou Dials	Cleveland Indians
Judy Johnson	Philadelphia Athletics
Buck O’Neil	Chicago Cubs
Hilton Smith	Chicago Cubs
Quincy Troupe	St. Louis Cardinals
Owner - Management	Major League Baseball Team Scouting Relationship
Tom Baird	Kansas City Athletics
Joe Cambria	Washington Senators
Alex Pompey	New York Giants
Ed Scott	Boston Red Sox
Bill Yancey	New York Yankees

Conclusion

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League baseball on April 15, 1947 when he played in his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League. Shortly after Jackie Robinson broke in with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Larry Doby integrated the American League when he took the field of play on July 5, 1947 for the Cleveland Indians. This, however, was just the start of the process of integrating the Major League baseball. It was without a doubt a slow and arduous process. Ironically, it would take thirteen (13) long years from 1947 until the start of the

1959 baseball season for all sixteen (16) Major League teams to have a person of color on their Major League roster.

The struggles that African American ball players went through on their journey to the Major Leagues are in most cases unbelievable by today's standards. The great game of baseball owes a huge debt of gratitude to those "black" and "white" players/coaches/managers/owners who over the years created an environment in "organized" baseball where the color of a person's skin was no longer the determining factor for an individual to be able to play professional baseball in the Minor or Major Leagues here in the United States.