

Negro American League Standings (1937-1962)

It was common practice for the teams in the league to all play a different number of games during the season.

Standings are presented based on winning percentage for the entire season.

1937	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	27	19-8	.704
Chicago American Giants	26	18-8	.692
Cincinnati Tigers	26	15-11	.577
Memphis Red Sox	26	13-13	.500
Detroit Stars	27	12-15	.444
Birmingham Black Barons	27	10-17	.370
Indianapolis Athletics	27	9-18	.333
St. Louis Stars	27	5-22	.185

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

1938	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	47	32-15	.681
Memphis Red Sox	48	29-19	.604
Atlanta Black Crackers	35	21-14	.600
Chicago American Giants	45	25-20	.556
Jacksonville Red Caps	7	3-4	.429
Indianapolis ABCs	33	14-19	.424
Birmingham Black Barons	31	8-23	.258

The Memphis Red Sox were the winners of the first half of the season and the Atlanta Black Crackers were the winners of the second half of the season with a record of 12-4. Memphis defeated Atlanta in the Play-Off Series two games to none for the Black Crackers.

1939	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	42	28-14	.667
Chicago American Giants	39	23-16	.590
St. Louis Stars	34	20-14	.588
Cleveland Bears	33	17-16	.515
Toledo Crawfords	19	8-11	.421
Memphis Red Sox	36	15-21	.417
Indianapolis ABCs	12	2-10	.167

The Indianapolis ABCs dropped out the league during the first half of the season and were replaced by the Toledo Crawfords. The Kansas City Monarchs (winners of the first half of the season) defeated the St. Louis Stars (winners of the second half of the season) in a Play-Off Series three games to two.

1940	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	33	23-10	.697
Memphis Red Sox	34	18-16	.529
Cleveland Bears	26	13-13	.500
Chicago American Giants	37	18-19	.486
Birmingham Black Barons	19	9-10	.474
St. Louis-New Orleans Stars	9	3-6	.333
Indianapolis Crawfords	17	4-13	.235

The Kansas City Monarchs won both halves of the season and claimed the league title without a play-off.

1941	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	30	24-6	.800
St. Louis-New Orleans Stars	32	20-12	.625
Birmingham Black Barons	24	14-10	.583
Memphis Red Sox	16	8-8	.500
Jacksonville Red Caps	18	8-10	.444
Chicago American Giants	20	7-13	.350

The Kansas City Monarchs easily won the Negro American League championship. No play-off was held.

1942	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	38	28-10	.737
Cincinnati-Cleveland Bears	20	12-8	.600
Birmingham Black Barons	24	14-10	.583
Memphis Red Sox	34	16-18	.471
Jacksonville Red Caps	8	2-6	.250
Chicago American Giants	18	2-16	.111

The Kansas City Monarchs won the Negro American League title and then defeated the Homestead Grays (Negro National League champions) in the Negro League World Series. The Monarchs defeated the Grays 4 games to 1.

1943	Games	Record	Pct.
Birmingham Black Barons	34	20-14	.588
Memphis Red Sox	26	15-11	.577
Cleveland Buckeyes	45	25-20	.556
Kansas City Monarchs	58	29-29	.500
Chicago American Giants	43	20-23	.465
Cincinnati Clowns	33	15-18	.455

The Birmingham Black Barons beat the Chicago American Giants three games to two in a Play-Off Series to win the Negro American League title.

1944	Games	Record	Pct.
Birmingham Black Barons	70	48-22	.686
Indianapolis-Cincinnati Clowns	71	40-31	.563
Cleveland Buckeyes	81	40-41	.494
Memphis Red Sox	95	44-51	.463
Chicago American Giants	71	32-39	.451
Kansas City Monarchs	65	23-42	.354

The Birmingham Black Barons were crowned Negro American League champions. They met the Homestead Grays (Negro National League champions) in the Negro League World Series. Birmingham lost the World Series to Homestead 4 games to 1.

1945	Games	Record	Pct.
Cleveland Buckeyes	69	53-16	.768
Birmingham Black Barons	69	39-30	.565
Chicago American Giants	74	39-35	.527
Kansas City Monarchs	62	32-30	.516
Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns	69	30-39	.435
Memphis Red Sox	78	17-61	.218

The Cleveland Buckeyes won both halves of the Negro American League season and claimed the league championship without a Play-Off Series. Cleveland won the Negro American League title by 14 games.

1946	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	57	43-14	.754
Birmingham Black Barons	60	35-25	.583
Cleveland Buckeyes	53	26-27	.491
Indianapolis Clowns	62	27-35	.435
Memphis Red Sox	60	24-36	.400
Chicago American Giants	72	27-45	.375

Kansas City Monarchs won the Negro American League championship without a Play-Off Series.

1947	Games	Record	Pct.
Cleveland Buckeyes	77	54-23	.701
Kansas City Monarchs	60	38-22	.633
Birmingham Black Barons	60	34-26	.567
Memphis Red Sox	78	33-45	.423
Chicago American Giants	81	31-50	.383
Indianapolis Clowns	66	22-44	.333

Cleveland Buckeyes were declared Negro American League Champions.

1948	Games	Record	Pct.
Birmingham Black Barons	78	57-21	.731
Kansas City Monarchs	68	43-25	.632
Cleveland Buckeyes	83	41-42	.494
Memphis Red Sox	77	33-44	.429
Indianapolis Clowns	73	27-46	.370
Chicago American Giants	75	27-48	.360

The Birmingham Black Barons (first half winners) defeated the Kansas City Monarchs (second half winners) in the playoffs and were named Negro American League Champions.

1949 (Eastern Division)	Games	Record	Pct.
Baltimore Elite Giants	89	59-30	.663
New York Cubans	46	26-20	.565
Indianapolis Clowns	81	37-44	.457
Philadelphia Stars	69	31-38	.449
Louisville Buckeyes	83	19-64	.229

1949 (Western Division)	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	91	54-37	.593
Chicago American Giants	83	48-35	.578
Birmingham Black Barons	84	45-39	.536
Houston Eagles	69	34-35	.493
Memphis Red Sox	89	39-50	.438

The Chicago American Giants were awarded the Western Division title when the Kansas City Monarchs were unable to defend their crown because several of the players were signed by Major League baseball. The Baltimore Elite Giants (Eastern Division champions) defeated the Chicago American Giants (Western Division champions) in a Play-Off Series.

1950 (Eastern Division)	Games	Record	Pct.
Indianapolis Clowns	87	47-38-2	.553
Baltimore Elite Giants	45	24-20-1	.545
New York Cubans	34	18-16	.529
Philadelphia Stars	44	15-28-1	.349
Cleveland Buckeyes	42	3-39	.071

1950 (Western Division)	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	73	52-21	.712
Birmingham Black Barons	78	52-25-1	.675
Memphis Red Sox	76	42-32-2	.568
Houston Eagles	65	23-41-1	.359
Chicago American Giants	46	15-31	.326

The Indianapolis Clowns won the Negro American League Eastern Division Title and the Kansas City Monarchs won both halves of the Negro American League Western Division. No playoff was held between the Eastern and Western Division Champions.

1951 (Eastern Division)	Games	Record	Pct.
Indianapolis Clowns	79	53-26	.671
Baltimore Elite Giants	64	28-36	.438
Philadelphia Stars	46	18-28	.391
Birmingham Black Barons	64	24-40	.375

1951 (Western Division)	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	70	42-28	.600
Chicago American Giants	58	34-24	.586
New Orleans Eagles	83	39-44	.470
Memphis Red Sox	56	22-34	.393

The Indianapolis Clowns won the Negro American League Championship.

1952	Games	Record	Pct.
Indianapolis Clowns	74	44-30	.595
Birmingham Black Barons	87	51-36	.586
Chicago American Giants	63	32-31	.508
Kansas City Monarchs	49	23-26	.469
Memphis Red Sox	69	29-40	.420
Philadelphia Stars	60	22-38	.367

Indianapolis won the first half of the season and Birmingham won the second half of the season. The Indianapolis Clowns were named the Negro American League champions.

1953	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	77	56-21	.727
Birmingham Black Barons	62	28-34	.452
Indianapolis Clowns	75	31-43-1	.419
Memphis Red Sox	58	20-37-1	.351

The Kansas City Monarchs won both halves of the split season and were named Negro American League champions. Kansas City was the only team in the league to finish over .500 for the season. In an article that appeared in the 09-12-53 edition of the Afro-American, the newspaper credited the Kansas City Monarchs with a record of 79-24 (.767) for the 1953 season.

1954	Games	Record	Pct.
Indianapolis Clowns	65	43-22	.662
Memphis Red Sox	84	49-34-1	.590
Birmingham Black Barons	80	41-38-1	.519
Detroit Stars	55	23-31-1	.426
Louisville Clippers	51	19-30-2	.388
Kansas City Monarchs	67	23-43-1	.348

The Indianapolis Clowns won both halves of the split season and were crowned Negro American League champions.

1955

*** First Half of Season (Incomplete)**

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	15	11-4	.733
Birmingham Black Barons	17	9-8	.529
Memphis Red Sox	14	7-7	.500
Detroit Stars	11	2-9	.182

* Standings reported in the Baltimore Afro American on 06-14-55.

According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Afro American on 07-12-55 the “official” order of finish for the first half of the Negro American League season was Kansas City Monarchs (1st), Birmingham Black Barons (2nd), Memphis Red Sox (3rd) and Detroit Stars (4th).

Standings for the second half of the season do not appear to have been reported. According to an article that appeared in the Afro American on 08-27-55, most of the games of the second half of the Negro American League season were washed out by Hurricanes Connie and Diane.

The Afro-American declared that the Kansas City Monarchs won the Negro American League title.

1956

*** Second Half of Season**

	Games	Record	Pct.
Memphis Red Sox	11	6-5	.545
Detroit Stars	24	13-11	.542
Birmingham Black Barons	18	9-9	.500
Kansas City Monarchs	15	6-9	.400

* Published in the Afro American on September 01, 1956.

The Detroit Stars were crowned as Negro American League champions.

1957

	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	43	34-9	.791
Memphis Red Sox	22	15-7	.682
Mobile Havana Cuban Giants	9	4-5	.444
Detroit Stars	41	16-25	.390
Birmingham Black Barons	24	6-18	.250
New Orleans Crescent Bears	11	0-11	.000

League standings as published in the Afro American on September 9, 1957.

The Jacksonville Eagles were awarded a franchise before the start of the season, but failed to make the necessary payment to the “league” and were therefore dropped.

1958	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	56	30-24-2	.556
Memphis Red Sox	34	18-15-1	.545
Detroit Clowns	48	21-26-1	.447
Birmingham Black Barons	34	15-19	.441

Kansas City Monarchs won the first half of Negro American League season.

Birmingham Black Barons won the second half of the season and claimed the Negro American League championship

1959

Birmingham Black Barons
 Detroit Stars
 Kansas City Monarchs
 Memphis Red Sox
 Newark Indians
 Raleigh Tigers

Per newspaper reports the Birmingham Black Barons were the Negro American League champions.
 “Official” League standings were not published.

1960

Birmingham Black Barons
 Detroit-New Orleans Stars
 Kansas City Monarchs
 Raleigh Tigers
 Philadelphia Stars (Associate member)

League standings were not published.

1961

Birmingham Black Barons
 Kansas City Monarchs
 Raleigh Tigers
 Philadelphia Stars (Associate Member)

League standings were not published.

1962

Birmingham Black Barons
 Kansas City Monarchs
 Raleigh Tigers
 Philadelphia Stars (Associate Member)

League standings were not published.