

Negro League World Series

The Negro League World Series was a post season championship series that was played from 1924 to 1927 between the Negro National League champions and the Eastern Colored League Champions.

Negro National League (NNL) vs Eastern Colored League (ECL)

Year	Negro National League Team	Eastern Colored League Team	Series Winner	Games
1924	Kansas City Monarchs	Hilldale	Kansas City	5-4
1925	Kansas City Monarchs	Hilldale	Hilldale	5-1
1926	Chicago American Giants	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Chicago	5-3
1927	Chicago American Giants	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Chicago	5-3

There was also a Negro League World Series played from 1942 to 1948 when the champions of the Negro American League (NAL) met the champions of the Negro National League (NNL).

Negro American League (NAL) vs Negro National League (NNL)

Year	Negro American League Team	Negro National League Team	Series Winner	Games
1942	Kansas City Monarchs	Homestead Grays	Kansas City	4-1
1943	Birmingham Black Barons	Homestead Grays	Homestead	4-3
1944	Birmingham Black Barons	Homestead Grays	Homestead	4-1
1945	Cleveland Buckeyes	Homestead Grays	Cleveland	4-0
1946	Kansas City Monarchs	Newark Eagles	Newark	4-3
1947	Cleveland Buckeyes	New York Cubans	New York	4-1
1948	Birmingham Black Barons	Homestead Grays	Homestead	4-1

Kansas City Monarchs
First Negro League World Series Champions (1924)

Negro League World Series (Summaries)

1924 Kansas City Monarchs (NNL) vs Hilldale (ECL)

The first Negro League World Series was played in 1924 between the Kansas City Monarchs who had won the Negro National League title and the Hilldale club that had easily won the Eastern Colored League crown. This historic series pitted the top two pitchers in Negro League baseball against each other. They were Wilber “Bullet” Rogan of the Kansas City Monarchs and Jesse “Nip” Winters of Hilldale.

Bullet Rogan was 17-5 on the mound during the regular season was also one of the Negro National League’s top hitters (.409 season batting average). In addition to Rogan, the Kansas City line-up included Oscar “Heavy” Johnson (.374), Newt Joseph (.363), Walter “Dobie” Moore (.356) and Hurley Mc Nair (.346). Big Bill Drake (11-9), William Bell and Harold “Yellowhorse” Morris (7-5) helped support Rogan on the Monarchs pitching staff.

The Hilldale club’s pitching staff was anchored by Jesse “Nip” Winters who had a regular season record of 27-4. Phil Cockrell (15-2) and Mervyn “Red” Ryan (12-7) provided the Hilldale staff with much needed depth. Hilldale also had three future National Baseball Hall of Fame hitters in their starting line-up. They were Judy Johnson (.324), Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (.357) and Louis Santop (.328).

The series could not have been more dramatic in how it unfolded on the field. The Kansas City Monarchs behind the brilliant pitching of aging veteran Jose Mendez beat Hilldale in the tenth game (game 3 ended in a tie) of the series by a score of 5-0 to claim the first ever Negro League World Series Championship. The series unfortunately was a financial disaster at the box office. The ten games played only resulted in \$ 52,000.00 in gate receipts. For over two weeks of work, each Kansas City Monarchs player got \$ 308.00 and each Hilldale player got \$ 193.00.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Winning Score	Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 3 rd	Kansas City	6-2	Bullet Rogan	Phil Cockrell
2	Philadelphia	Oct 3 rd	Hilldale	11-0	Nip Winters	Jack Mc Call
3	Baltimore	Oct 5 th	Tie Game	6-6	-	-
4	Baltimore	Oct 6 th	Hilldale	4-3	Rube Currie	Cliff Bell
5	Kansas City	Oct 11 th	Hilldale	5-2	Nip Winters	Bullet Rogan
6	Kansas City	Oct 13 th	Kansas City	6-5	William Bell	Scrip Lee
7	Kansas City	Oct 14 th	Kansas City	4-3	Jose Mendez	Nip Winters
8	Chicago	Oct 18 th	Kansas City	3-2	Bullet Rogan	Rube Currie
9	Chicago	Oct 19 th	Hilldale	5-3	Nip Winters	Bill Drake
10	Chicago	Oct 20 th	Kansas City	5-0	Jose Mendez	Scrip Lee

Top Hitters for the Series:

Kansas City Monarchs – Bullet Rogan (.375), Dobie Moore (.300) and Newt Allen (.282)

Hilldale – Judy Johnson (.341), Louis Santop (.333) and George John (.296)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Kansas City Monarchs – Jose Mendez (2-0 w/ 1.42 ERA) and Bullet Rogan (2-1 w/ 2.89 ERA)

Hilldale – Jesse “Nip” Winters (3-1 w/ 1.16 ERA) and Rube Currie (1-1 w/ 0.83 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1924) – Kansas City Monarchs

1925 Kansas City Monarchs (NNL) vs Hilldale (ECL)

The 1925 Negro League World Series was a repeat match up of the year before with the Kansas City Monarchs (Negro National League) and Hilldale (Eastern Colored League) ending their regular seasons as the two best teams in Negro League baseball. The Kansas City Monarchs got back to the Negro League World Series by winning the first half of the regular Negro National League season with a record of 62-23 (.729) and then beating the St. Louis Stars (winners of the second half of the season) four games to three in the best of a seven game Playoff Series. Hilldale dominated the Eastern Colored League regular season with a record of 52-15 (.776).

The Kansas City Monarchs had six players in their starting line-up that hit over .300 for the season: Bullet Rogan (.374), Hurley Mc Nair (.365), Newt Joseph (.335), Dobie Moore (.333), Newt Allen (.307) and Wade Johnston (.304). The Monarchs also had a strong pitching staff that included Bullet Rogan (20-2), Nelson Dean (11-3), William Bell (10-3) and Bill Drake (10-4).

Hilldale put an even stronger hitting line-up on the field for the 1925 season. The starting lineup for Hilldale and their batting averages for the 1925 season were:

Player	Position	Batting Average	Player	Position	Batting Average
Tank Carr	1B	.358	George Johnson	OF	.310
Frank Warfield	2B	.313	Clint Thomas	OF	.314
Jake Stephens	SS	.241	Otto Briggs	OF	.332
Judy Johnson	3B	.332			
Biz Mackey	C	.346	Jesse “Nip” Winters	P	.327

Hilldale also had an outstanding pitching staff that included Jesse “Nip” Winters (21-13), Rube Currie (13-2), Red Ryan (7-1) and Scrip Lee (7-3).

The 1925 Negro League World Series was an even worse financial disaster than the year before. The total gate receipts for the entire series were a mere \$ 21,000.00. When they left to go home, each member of the loosing Kansas City Monarchs got \$ 57.64 per man or less than \$ 10 a game.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Kansas City	Oct 1 st	Hilldale	5-2	Rube Currie	Bill Drake
2	Kansas City	Oct 2 nd	Kansas City	5-3	Nelson Dean	Phil Cockrell
3	Kansas City	Oct 3 rd	Hilldale	3-1	Red Ryan	Jose Mendez
4	Kansas City	Oct 4 th	Hilldale	7-4	Nip Winters	Bill Drake
5	Philadelphia	Oct 8 th	Hilldale	2-1	Rube Currie	Cliff Bell
6	Philadelphia	Oct 10 th	Hilldale	5-2	Phil Cockrell	William Bell

Top Hitters for the Series:

Kansas City Monarchs – Dobie Moore (.364), Hurley Mc Nair (.273) and Newt Allen (.259)
Hilldale – Otto Briggs (.414), Biz Mackey (.360), Tank Carr (.320) and George Johnson (.286)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Kansas City Monarchs – Nelson Dean (1-0 w/ 2.19 ERA) and Cliff Bell (0-1 w/ 2.57 ERA).
Hilldale – Rube Currie (2-0 w/ 1.29 ERA), Red Ryan (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA), Nip Winters (1-0 w/ 3.00 ERA)
Phil Cockrell (1-0 w/ 3.70 and Scrip Lee (0-0 w/ 1.25 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1925) – Hilldale

1926 Chicago American Giants (NNL) vs Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (ECL)

The 3rd Negro League World Series pitted the Chicago American Giants, winners of a Playoff Series with the Kansas City Monarchs, against the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants who had won the Eastern Colored League title with a record of 34-20 (.630). The Chicago American Giants had won the second half of the regular season and finished the year with a 57-23 (.713) record.

The Chicago American Giants were led to the World Series by the hitting of Jim Brown (.333), Jelly Gardner (.329) and Sandy Thompson (.312). Webster McDonald (11-4), Bill Foster (11-5) and George Harney (11-6) anchored the pitching staff for Chicago. Atlantic City's strength was the pitching of Red Grier (25-12) and Rats Henderson (15-8). Red Farrell (.348), Dick Lundy (.320) and Oliver Marcelle (.288) were the Bacharach Giants leading hitters during the season.

The highlight of the series was game 3 in Baltimore when Red Grier (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants) pitched the first and only no-hitter in the history of the Negro League World Series. The most amazing part of the feat was the fact that Grier had pitched the day before, had been hit hard by Chicago and had been knocked out of the game in the sixth inning.

The drama of the 3rd Negro League World Series came down to the 11th and final game (two games had ended in ties). The Chicago American Giants had come back from being down four games to two to force the 11th game. The final game of the series was a master piece with Chicago ace Bill Foster facing off against Hubert Lockhart. Going into the bottom of the ninth inning the game was still tied 0-0, when Jelly Gardner (Chicago) singled. Dave Malacher sacrificed to move Gardner to second. The next batter up Sam Thompson lined a ball to centerfield that got away from Chaney White, allowing Jelly Gardner to race home for the winning run and the World Series title for the Chicago American Giants.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Atlantic City	Oct 1 st	Tie Game	3-3	-	-
2	Atlantic City	Oct 2 nd	Chicago	7-6	George Harney	Red Grier
3	Baltimore	Oct 3 rd	Atlantic City	10-0	Red Grier	Webster McDonald
4	Philadelphia	Oct 4 th	Tie Game	4-4	-	-
5	Philadelphia	Oct 5 th	Atlantic City	7-5	Hooks Mitchell	Rube Currie
6	Atlantic City	Oct 6 th	Atlantic City	6-4	Red Grier	Willie Powell
7	Chicago	Oct 9 th	Chicago	5-4	Bill Foster	Hubert Lockhart
8	Chicago	Oct 10 th	Atlantic City	3-0	Rats Henderson	George Harney
9	Chicago	Oct 11 th	Chicago	6-3	Rube Currie	Red Grier
10	Chicago	Oct 13 th	Chicago	13-0	Willie Powell	Rats Henderson
11	Chicago	Oct 14 th	Chicago	1-0	Bill Foster	Hubert Lockhart

Top Hitters for the Series:

Chicago American Giants – Stanford Jackson (.314), Johnny Hines (.294) and George Sweat (.257)
Atlantic City – Ambrose Reid (.400), Oliver Marcelle (.333), Chance Cumming (.310), Dick Lundy (.306)
and Ed “Yump” Jones (.281)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Chicago American Giants - Bill Foster (2-0 w/ 2.57 ERA) and Willie Powell (1-1 w/ 3.10 ERA)
Atlantic City - Rats Henderson (1-1 w/ 2.30 ERA) and Red Grier (2-2 w/ 5.53 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1926) – Chicago American Giants

1927 Chicago American Giants (NNL) vs Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (ECL)

The 1927 Negro League World Series would be the last between the Negro National League and Eastern Colored League (ECL dissolved in 1928). Representing the Negro National League was the Chicago American Giants. Chicago had finished the regular season with a record of 56-29 (.659) and had beaten the Birmingham Black Barons four games to zero in the Negro National League Playoff Series. The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants had won the Eastern Colored League title with a record of 54-35 (.607).

Steel Arm Davis (.385), Pythian Russ (.350), Nat Rogers (.342) and Larry Brown (.316) were the leading hitters for the Chicago American Giants. Chicago's pitching staff was led by Bill Foster (21-3), Webster Mc Donald (10-5) and Willie Powell (9-4).

Atlantic City combined good hitting with strong pitching to dominate Eastern Colored League opponents. The top hitters on the Bacharach Giants during the 1927 regular ECL season were Ed "Yump" Jones (.367), Milton Lewis (.354), Oliver Marcelle (.326), Dick Lundy (.303) and Red Farrell (.301). Atlantic City also had four strong pitchers in Red Farrell (20-11), Rats Henderson (15-6), Jesse Hubbard (13-5) and Roy Roberts (10-8).

Atlantic City went into the World Series without the services of Rats Henderson who was one of their two best pitchers. Chicago took the first four games of the World Series by outscoring Atlantic City 33 runs to only 4 for the Bacharach Giants.

The Bacharach Giants made a series of it by taking three of the next four games (game 6 ended in a 1-1 tie). Behind homeruns by Steel Arm Davis, Pythian Russ and Larry Brown, Chicago closed the World Series out in game 9 by a score of 11-4. Chicago had won its second straight Negro League World Series.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Winning Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Chicago	Oct 2 nd	Chicago	6-2	Bill Foster	Red Farrell
2	Chicago	Oct 3 rd	Chicago	11-1	Willie Powell	Jesse Hubbard
3	Chicago	Oct 4 th	Chicago	7-0	George Harney	Jesse Hubbard
4	Chicago	Oct 5 th	Chicago	9-1	Webster Mc Donald	Red Farrell
5	Atlantic City	Oct 8 th	Atlantic City	3-2	Red Farrell	Bill Foster
6	Atlantic City	Oct 10 th	Tie Game	1-1	-	-
7	Atlantic City	Oct 11 th	Atlantic City	8-1	Red Farrell	George Harney
8	Atlantic City	Oct 12 th	Atlantic City	6-5	Jesse Hubbard	Bill Foster
9	Atlantic City	Oct 13 th	Chicago	11-4	Bill Foster	Hubert Lockhart

Top Hitters for the Series:

Chicago American Giants - Nat Rogers (.400), Steel Arm Davis (.361) and Jim Brown (.314)
 Atlantic City – Ed "Yump" Jones (.385), Milton Lewis (.348) and Eggie Dallard (.278)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Chicago American Giants - Bill Foster (2-2 w/ 3.38 ERA) and Willie Powell (1-0 w/ 1.69 ERA)

Atlantic City – Red Farrell (2-2 w/ 5.63 ERA) and Hubert Lockhart (0-1 w/ 4.15 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1927) – Chicago American Giants 1942 Homestead Grays (NNL) vs Kansas City Monarchs (NAL)

The first meeting between the Negro American League and the Negro National League in a Negro League World Series occurred in 1942, when the Kansas City Monarchs representing the Negro American League took on the powerful Homestead Grays of the Negro National League. Each team had one of the dominant black baseball stars of the day on its roster. Satchel Paige led the Monarchs, while Josh Gibson was considered the heart and soul of the Grays.

The Kansas City Monarchs were led to the Negro American League pennant by the hitting of Bonnie Serrell (.405), Hilton Smith (.375), Joe Greene (.366), Newt Allen (.318) and Jesse “Batman” Williams (.315). The Monarchs pitching staff was anchored by Satchel Paige (7-5), Booker Mc Daniel (6-0), Jack Matchett (6-1) and Connie Johnson (4-0).

The Homestead Grays brought a powerful line-up to the World Series with Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, Ray Brown, Jud Wilson, Sam Bankhead, Jerry Benjamin, Speed Whately and Howard Easterling and Vic Harris. But they were no match for the Kansas City Monarchs pitching staff.

In an attempt to promote Negro League baseball and increase attendance at the World Series games, all five of the 1942 Negro League World Series games were played in different cities.

The 1942 World Series quickly turned into a battle between Kansas City Monarchs hitters against Homestead Grays pitching. The Monarch hitters destroyed Grays pitching. The starting line-up for the Monarchs collected 56 hit in 155 plate appearances for a .361 team batting average. In their four victories, Kansas City scored 8 runs twice and 9 runs twice. Kansas City also got strong pitching from Satchel Paige, Jack Matchett and Hilton Smith. Paige appeared in all five games and struck out 24 Homestead Grays’ batters in the 25 innings he pitched.

Not only did the Grays pitchers struggle, but so did their hitters. Josh Gibson went 2 for 14 (.143) and Walter “Buck Leonard didn’t fare much better at 3 for 16 (.188).

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Washington, DC.	Sept 8 th	Kansas City	8-0	Jack Matchett	Roy Welmaker
2	Pittsburgh	Sept 10 th	Kansas City	8-4	Hilton Smith	Roy Partlow
3	New York City	Sept 13 th	Kansas City	9-3	Jack Matchett	Ray Brown
4	Kansas City	Sept 24 th	Homestead	4-1	Leon Day	Satchel Paige
5	Philadelphia	Sept 29 th	Kansas City	9-5	Satchel Paige	John Wright

(Note – Game four was thrown out because Homestead used several illegal players.)

Top Hitters for the Series:

Kansas City Monarchs – Bonnie Serrell (.556), Jesse Williams (.471), Joe Greene (.444), Willard Brown (.412), Buck O’Neil (.353) and Ted Strong (.316).
Homestead Grays – Ray Brown (.400) and Howard Easterling (.333)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Kansas City Monarchs – Jack Matchett (2-0 w/ 3.60 ERA) and Satchel Paige (1-1 w/ 3.23 ERA)

Homestead Grays – Leon Day (1-0 w/ 1.00 ERA)

**Negro League World Series Champion (1942) – Kansas City Monarchs
1943 Homestead Grays (NNL) vs Birmingham Black Barons (NAL)**

The Homestead Grays (Negro National League) returned to the Negro League World Series in 1943 for the second year in a row. Their opponent for the 1943 World Series was the Birmingham Black Barons who were the champions of the Negro American League.

The Homestead Grays boasted probably the most powerful team in Negro League baseball at that time. The Grays team had five future National Baseball Hall of Fame players (James “Cool Pappa” Bell, Raymond Brown, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard and Jud Wilson). Homestead had the best hitting team in all of black baseball. Their starting line-up for the 1943 season included:

Player	Position	Batting Average	Player	Position	Batting Average
Buck Leonard	1B	.321	James Bell	OF	.297
Jud Wilson	2B	.327	Jerry Benjamin	OF	.370
Sam Bankhead	SS	.483	Vic Harris	OF	.298
Howard Easterling	3B	.399	Matthew Carlise	Utility	.349
Josh Gibson	C	.449	Raymond Brown	P	.500

The Grays also had an excellent pitching staff that included Johnny Wright (18-5), Ray Brown (8-1), Edsall Walker (8-4) and Charles Carter (6-1)

The Birmingham Black Barons also had an excellent hitting team. They were led by Lyman Bostock (.412), Felix Mcclaurin (.406), Lester Lockett (.388), Tommy Sampson (.358) and Lorenzo “Piper” Davis (.348). The Black Barons top pitcher was John Markham (7-2).

The 1943 Negro League World Series was truly a national event as seven of the games were played in eight different cities (Baltimore, Birmingham, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Montgomery and Washington, D.C.).

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Winning Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Washington, D.C.	Sept 21 st	Birmingham	4-2	Al Saylor	Johnny Wright
2	Baltimore	Sept 23 rd	Tie Game	5-5	-	-
3	Washington, D.C.	Sept 24 th	Homestead	4-3	Ray Brown	John Markham
4	Chicago	Sept 26 th	Homestead	9-0	Johnny Wright	Gread McKinnis
5	Columbus	Sept 28 th	Birmingham	11-10	Al Saylor	Roy Partlow
6	Indianapolis	Sept 29 th	Homestead	8-0	Johnny Wright	Gread McKinnis
7	Birmingham	Oct 3 rd	Birmingham	1-0	John Markham	Roy Partlow
8	Montgomery	Oct 5 th	Homestead	8-4	Ray Brown	Al Saylor

Top Hitters for the Series:

Homestead Grays – James “Cool Pappa” Bell (.308), Buck Leonard (.286) and Howard Easterling (.280)
Birmingham Black Barons - Tommy Sampson (.346), Ted Radcliffe (.320) and Clyde Spearman (.261)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Homestead Grays – Johnny Wright (2-1 w/ 2.10 ERA) and Ray Brown (2-0 w/ 2.89 ERA)

Birmingham Black Barons – John Markham (1-1 w/ 1.52 ERA) and Al Saylor (2-1 w/ 4.91 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1943) – Homestead Grays 1944 Homestead Grays (NNL) vs Birmingham Black Barons (NAL)

The Homestead Grays (champions of the Negro National League) faced off with the Birmingham Black Barons (champions of the Negro American League) for the second year in a row in the 1944 Negro League World Series. Homestead won both halves of the Negro National League season and finished the year with a record of 27-12 (.692). The Birmingham Black Barons won both halves of the Negro American League season to capture the league crown outright. The Black Barons finished the season with a record of 48-22 (.686), eight and a half games ahead of the Indianapolis Clowns.

The Birmingham Black Barons brought a strong hitting line-up to the World Series that included Artie Wilson (.346), Leandy Young (.341), John Scott (.327), John Britton (.324) and Ed Steele (.303). Birmingham's pitching staff was headed up by Alfred Saylor (14-5) and Al Gipson (10-6).

Gone from the Homestead Grays was manager Vic Harris who had left the team to take a job in a defense plant to support the war effort. Legendary Candy Jim Taylor replaced Harris at the helm of the Grays. Fortunately for Candy Jim, he had most of the lineup back from the 1943 Grays team. The leading hitters for Homestead during the 1944 season were Josh Gibson (.369), Rev Canady (.356), Buck Leonard (.350), Sam Bankhead (.345), Jerry Benjamin (.342) and Dave Hoskins (.333). Ray Brown was the ace of the pitching staff for the Grays with a 9-3 record. Paul Carter (7-1), Roy Welmaker (4-0) and Edsall Walker (4-3) rounded out the Homestead Grays pitching staff.

The Black Barons never got untracked in the series and dropped the first three games to the Grays. The lone bright spot in the 1944 World Series for Birmingham was game four when John Huber pitched a three hit shutout and beat the Grays 6-0 for the Black Barons only victory in the series. Roy Welmaker started game five for Homestead and picked up his second victory of the series as he set Birmingham down by a score of 4-2. Homestead's victory in game five gave the Grays their second straight Negro League World Series title.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Birmingham	Sept 17 th	Homestead	8-3	Roy Welmaker	John Markham
2	New Orleans	Sept 19 th	Homestead	6-1	Edsall Walker	Al Saylor
3	Birmingham	Sept 21 st	Homestead	9-0	Ray Brown	Earl Bumpus
4	Pittsburgh	Sept 23 rd	Birmingham	6-0	John Huber	Spoon Carter
5	Washington, D.C.	Sept 24 th	Homestead	4-2	Roy Welmaker	Al Saylor

Top Hitters for the Series:

Homestead Grays – Josh Gibson (.500), Sam Bankhead (.388) and Buck Leonard (.388)
Birmingham Black Barons – Ed Steele (.369), Artie Wilson (.272) and Lester Lockett (.263)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Homestead Grays – Roy Welmaker (2-0 w/ 2.50 ERA), Ray Brown (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA) and Edsall Walker (1-0 w/ 1.00 ERA)
Birmingham Black Barons – John Huber (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1944) – Homestead Grays

1945 Homestead Grays (NNL) vs Cleveland Buckeyes (NAL)

The Negro National League pennant race finished the way it had for the previous four seasons with the Homestead Grays coming out on top. The Grays won both halves of the season and finished the year with a record of 32-13 (.711). In the Negro American League, the Cleveland Buckeyes who fielded the youngest team in the league thoroughly dominated the competition. Cleveland won both halves of the Negro American League season and finished with a record of 53-16 (.768) for their first ever Negro American League title. Cleveland finished fourteen (14) games ahead of the second place Birmingham Black Barons who were 39-30 (.565).

The Homestead Grays went into the 1945 Negro League World Series as the defending World Series champions, unfortunately for them they were now a team of aging super stars. Jud Wilson was 46 years old and in poor health, James “Cool Pappa” Bell had turned 42 during the season, Buck Leonard was 38, Raymond Brown was 37, Sam Bankhead was 35 and Josh Gibson was 34 years of age. The Grays had hit well during the regular season. Jud Wilson was now a utility player but responded with a .400 batting average during the regular season. Buck Leonard had an excellent year as he posted a .365 batting average. But Sam Bankhead (.262), James “Cool Pappa” Bell (.253) and Josh Gibson (.323) all saw their production fall off during the 1945 regular season. When the World Series started the aging Grays hitters were no match for the Cleveland Buckeyes pitching staff.

The Cleveland Buckeyes were young, fast, could hit the ball and had strong pitching. The leading hitters for the 1945 Buckeyes were Sam Jethroe (.393), George Jefferson (.349), Ducky Davenport (.345), Parnell Woods (.335), Buddy Armour (.325) and Archie Ware (.296). Cleveland also got strong pitching out of their starting rotation of George Jefferson (12-1), Willie Jefferson (10-3), Gene Bremer (9-4) and Frank Carswell (5-2).

Cleveland destroyed Homestead in the series. The Buckeyes swept the Grays in four straight games. The once mighty Homestead Grays could manage only three runs (one of which was unearned) in four games. Cleveland won games 3 and 4 by shutout scores of 4-0 and 5-0. Josh Gibson was held to only 2 hits in 15 at bats and Sam Bankhead went 1 for 16 (.063). The trio of Bell, Leonard and Wilson didn’t fare much better. Bell was 3 for 14 (.215), Leonard was 3 for 15 (.200) and Wilson was 2 for 7 (.143).

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Cleveland	Sept 13 th	Cleveland	2-1	Willie Jefferson	Roy Welmaker
2	Cleveland	Sept 16 th	Cleveland	4-2	Gene Bremer	Johnny Wright
3	Washington, D.C.	Sept 17 th	Cleveland	4-0	George Jefferson	Roy Welmaker
4	Philadelphia	Sept 18 th	Cleveland	5-0	Frank Carswell	Ray Brown

Top Hitters for the Series:

Homestead Grays – Dave Hoskins (.286), Jerry Benjamin (.231) and James “Cool Pappa” Bell (.215)
 Cleveland Buckeyes – Quincy Troupe (.400), Sam Jethroe (.333) and Willie Grace (.313)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Homestead Grays – Johnny Wright (0-1 w/ 4.00 ERA) and Roy Welmaker (0-2 w/ 4.23 ERA)

Cleveland Buckeyes – Frank Carswell (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA), George Jefferson (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA), Willie Jefferson (1-0 w/ 1.00 ERA) and Gene Bremer (1-0 w/ 2.00 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1945) – Cleveland Buckeyes 1946 Newark Eagles (NNL) vs Kansas City Monarchs (NAL)

The Kansas City Monarchs won the 1946 Negro League American League title to face the Negro National League champion Newark Eagles. The Eagles in their first appearance in the Negro League World Series had won both halves of the Negro National League season and posted a won-loss record of 47-16 (.746) for the year.

The Monarchs were led to the Negro American League championship by the hitting of Buck O'Neil (.350), Herb Souell (.316), John Scott (.306) and Joe Greene (.300). Connie Johnson (9-3), Jim La Marque (6-3), Satchel Paige (5-1) and Hilton Smith (5-2) were the team's top pitchers.

The Newark Eagles were a complete team with strong hitting and excellent pitching. The top hitters for the Eagles for the 1946 season were Larry Doby (.360), Clarence Israel (.354), Monte Irvin (.349), Johnny Davis (.301) and Pat Patterson (.288). The Newark Eagles boasted the best pitching staff in the Negro National League in 1946. Leading the Eagles pitching staff were:

Pitcher	Won-Loss Record	ERA
Rufus Lewis	15-3	2.79
Leon Day	14-4	2.53
Max Manning	13-1	2.79
Lemuel Hooker	8-3	2.12

The Kansas City Monarchs behind the pitching Hilton Smith and Satchel Paige took game one of the World Series with a 2-1 victory. The teams then traded victories with Kansas City winning games one, three and five. The Newark Eagles won games two and four. The Eagles were faced with a must win situation in game six. In a slug feast that included two homeruns each by Monte Irvin and Lenny Pearson, Newark prevailed with a 9-7 victory. After six games Newark and Kansas City were tied with three wins apiece. Newark ace Rufus Lewis took the mound for game seven and John Ford Smith got the nod for the Monarchs. Smith held the Eagles to three hits over eight innings, but Newark turned the three hits into three runs and took the game (3-2) and the Negro League World Series title.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	New York City	Sept 17 th	Kansas City	2-1	Satchel Paige	Rufus Lewis
2	Newark	Sept 19 th	Newark	7-4	Max Manning	Satchel Paige
3	Kansas City	Sept 23 rd	Kansas City	15-5	Jim La Marque	Lemuel Hooker
4	Kansas City	Sept 24 th	Newark	8-1	Rufus Lewis	Ted Alexander
5	Chicago	Sept 25 th	Kansas City	5-1	Hilton Smith	Max Manning
6	Newark	Sept 26 th	Newark	9-7	Lemuel Hooker	Enloe Wylie
7	Newark	Sept 29 th	Newark	3-2	Rufus Lewis	John F. Smith

Top Hitters for the Series:

Newark Eagles – Monte Irvin (.462), Lenny Pearson (.393), Johnny Davis (.292), Leon Ruffin (.280) and Jimmy Wilkes (.280)

Kansas City Monarchs – Chico Renfroe (.414), Herb Souell (.344) and Buck O'Neil (.333)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Newark Eagles – Rufus Lewis (2-1 w/ 1.64 ERA) and Max Manning (1-1 w/ 3.64 ERA)
Kansas City Monarchs – Jim La Marque (1-0 w/ 1.29 ERA) and Hilton Smith (1-0 w/ 1.29 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1946) – Newark Eagles 1947 New York Cubans (NNL) vs Cleveland Buckeyes (NAL)

The New York Cubans made it to the Negro League World Series by winning the second half of the Negro National League season. The Newark Eagles had won the first half of the NNL season but took a nose dive in the standings when they lost Larry Doby to the Cleveland Indians of the American League. Under the strong leadership of player-manager Quincy Troupe, the Cleveland Buckeyes won the Negro American League crown. They were no strangers to the World Series, as they won it all just two years before.

According to statistics published in the Baltimore Afro-American, the New York Cubans led the Negro National League in hitting with a .292 team batting average. The team's leading hitters were Lorenzo Cabrera (.353), Cleveland Clark (.338), Rafael Noble (.325), Silvio Garcia (.324) and Minnie Minoso (.294). Even with all the great hitting, the biggest star of the Cubans in 1947 was aging veteran Luis Tiant, Sr. who was 41 years of age. Tiant was unbeatable the entire season as he went 10-0 on the mound with a league leading three shut outs. New York also got strong pitching from Pat Scantlebury (10-5), Lino Donoso (8-2), Dave Barnhill (4-0) and Martin Crue (4-0).

The Cleveland Buckeyes compiled a team batting average of .301 for the 1947 regular season. They were led into the World Series by the hitting of Quincy Troupe (.352), Archie Ware (.349), Sam Jethroe (.340), Joe Atkins (.335) and Clyde Nelson (.333). The Buckeyes pitching staff was anchored by Chet Brewer (12-6), Vibert Clarke (11-2), Alonzo Boone (5-1) and Ross Davis (5-2).

Game one of the series was played in New York City and ended in a 5-5 tie. Game two was tied 7-7 going into the 9th inning when Al Smith delivered a bases loaded double to give Cleveland a 10-7 victory. Game three set the tone for the rest of the series, when Barney Morris silenced the Buckeyes bats and pitched a 6-0 shut out to give the Cubans the win. Ray Noble's grand slam homerun powered the Cubans to a victory in game four by a score of 9-4. New York swept the next two games and claimed the Negro League World Series championship.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	New York City	Sept 19 th	Tie Game	5-5	-	-
2	New York City	Sept 21 st	Cleveland	10-7	Ramon Bragana	Lino Donoso
3	Cleveland	Sept 23 rd	New York	6-0	Barney Morris	Sam Jones
4	Philadelphia	Sept 24 th	New York	9-4	Dave Barnhill	Gene Bremer
5	Chicago	Sept 26 th	New York	9-2	Lino Donoso	Chet Brewer
6	Cleveland	Sept 27 th	New York	6-5	Pat Scantlebury	Eugene Smith

Top Hitters for the Series:

New York Cubans – Minnie Minoso (.421), Ray Noble (.400), Silvio Garcia (.389), Lorenzo Cabrera (.316)
Cleveland Buckeyes – Leon Kellman (.450), Sam Jethroe (.316) and Al Smith (.294)

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

New York Cubans – Barney Morris (1-0 w/ 0.00 ERA), Pat Scantlebury (1-0 w/ 2.25 ERA), Lino Donoso (1-1 w/ 3.33 ERA) and Dave Barnhill (1-0 w/ 7.20 ERA)
 Cleveland Buckeyes – Ramon Bragana (1-0 w/ 5.00 ERA) and Eugene Smith (0-1 w/ 3.18 ERA)

Negro League World Series Champion (1947) – New York Cubans 1948 Homestead Grays (NNL) vs Birmingham Black Barons (NAL)

The Negro National League folded after the 1948 season. This made the 1948 Negro League World Series the last “Colored World Series” to ever be played. It was only fitting that two of the traditional powerhouse teams of Negro League baseball played for the final championship. The Homestead Grays (Negro National League) met the Birmingham Black Barons (Negro American League) in the 1948 World Series.

The Homestead Grays appeared in the first four Negro League World Series (1942-1945) and had won back to back Negro League World Series titles in 1943 and 1944 before missing the series in 1946 and 1947. The Grays rebounded in 1948 and won the last Negro National League championship. Their title in 1948 gave them nine (9) Negro National League titles since they joined the league in 1935. Without any questions, the Homestead Grays were the most dominant team in the Negro National League from the late 1930’s through the 1940’s.

Sam Bankhead, player-manager of the Grays, had a strong veteran team that was led by the hitting of Buck Leonard, Luke Easter, Luis Marquez, Wilmer Fields and Bob Thurman. Wilmer Fields (7-1), R.T. Walker (7-3), Tom Parker (7-4) and Bob Thuman (6-4) made up the Grays starting rotation.

The Birmingham Black Barons won the first half of the Negro American League season and defeated the Kansas City Monarchs (winners of the second half of the season) in a Playoff Series by winning four games to three for Kansas City. Birmingham finished the year with a 55-21 (.724) record.

Lorenzo “Piper” Davis, player-manager of the Birmingham Black Barons, brought a powerful hitting line-up to the World Series that besides himself (Davis hit .353) included: Artie Wilson (.402), Lloyd “Pepper” Bassett (.350), Alonzo Perry (.325), “Big” Ed Steele (.300), Norman Robinson (.299) and Johnny Britton (.289). Birmingham also had a young rookie by the name of Willie Mays on their roster. The Black Barons pitching staff included Jimmy Newberry (14-5), Bill Powell (11-3), Alonzo Perry (10-2) who also played first base, Jehosie Heard (6-1), Sam Williams (6-3) and Bill Greason (6-4).

Homestead dominated Birmingham taking the World Series in five games.

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Kansas City	Sept 26 th	Homestead	3-2	Ted Alexander	Jimmy Newberry
2	Memphis	Sept 29 th	Homestead	5-3	-	-
3	Birmingham	Sept 30 th	Birmingham	4-3	Bill Greason	-
4	New Orleans	Oct 3 rd	Homestead	14-1	Wilmer Fields	-
5	Birmingham	Oct 5 th	Homestead	10-6	-	-

Top Hitters for the Series:

Final hitting statistics for the series are not available

Leading Pitchers for the Series:

Homestead Grays – Wilmer Fields (1-0), Bob Thurman (1-0), Robert Walker (1-0), Ted Alexander (1-1)
Birmingham Black Barons- Bill Greason (1-2), Jimmy Newberry (0-1) and Bill Powell (0-1)

Negro League World Series Champion (1948) – Homestead Grays