

“LEGENDS of the NEGRO LEAGUES”

Est. May 16, 1999



- Honoring their Effort -

Fifty-nine men fill the roster of this “Legends of the Negro Leagues” tribute team. Throughout the course of their playing days, they appeared on Negro Leagues Baseball teams from the leagues’ beginnings in the 1920’s through its demise in the early 1960’s. Team affiliations with cities represented in Black Baseball at times changed throughout the course of its existence and as a result, many players affiliation with teams changed as well. The collective career of our 59-man roster checked the roster of 38 Negro Leagues Baseball organizations including the Ashville Blues, Atlanta Black Crackers, Baltimore Elite Giants, Birmingham Black Barons, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Chattanooga Choo Chos, Chicago American Giants, Cincinnati Crescents, Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns, Cincinnati Tigers, Cleveland Buckeyes, Cleveland Clippers, Detroit Stars, Detroit – New Orleans Stars, Harrisburg-St. Louis Stars, Harlem Globe Trotters, Homestead Grays, Houston Eagles, Kansas City Monarchs, Indianapolis Athletics, Indianapolis Clowns, Louisville Clippers, Memphis Red Sox, Nashville Black Vols, Nashville Cubs, Newark Eagles, New Orleans Bears, New Orleans Eagles, New Orleans-Detroit Stars, New York Black Yankees, New York Cubans, Philadelphia Stars, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Pittsburgh Stars, Raleigh Tigers, Satchel Paige All-Stars, Seattle Steelheads, and St. Louis Giants.

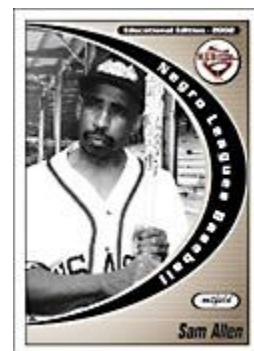
Patriotic Mention: Thirty-two of these men served within the ranks of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. WWII Deployments in the European and Pacific Theatres – Assignments include: General Patton’s Red Ballers, Buffalo Soldiers, Air Defense, Field Artillery, Airborne Infantry and more...

- Preserving their Legacy -

102 - Sam Allen was born in Norfolk, Virginia on April 25, 1936. In 1957, Sam was on his way to South



Carolina for a try-out with the Negro American League Kansas City Monarchs. He was to appear in the Monarchs line-up to face a Jacksonville All-Star team in an exhibition game. At gametime, the All-Stars were short an outfielder. Kansas City’s Manager, William “Dizzy” Dismukes instructed Sam to suit up for the opposition, so the game could be played. Allan did just that, played the game of his life and was signed by the Monarchs that evening. His Negro League career included seasons with the ’58 Raleigh Tigers and the ’59 Memphis Red Sox. In 1960, Sam continued his baseball career on the fields of Ft. Bragg, NC, while serving in the 82nd Airborne.



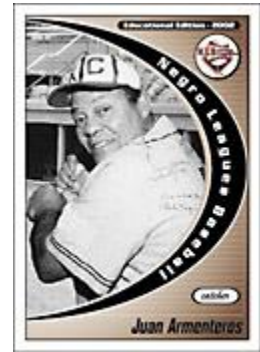
on the fields of Ft. Bragg, NC, while serving in the 82nd Airborne.

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103 - Juan Armenteros was born in Havana, Cuba on June 24, 1928. He made his Negro American



League debut in 1953, went to work behind home plate for manager "Buck" O'Neil of the Kansas City Monarchs. At the end of every season, Armenteros returned to his homeland to play in the Cuban Winter Leagues. He was the Monarchs catcher through 1956, during which he made appearances in three East West All-Star Games. The St. Louis Cardinals signed Juan in '57 and sent him to their minor league system in El Paso, Texas. He ultimately ended his career in Winston Salem, North Carolina at the end of the 1958



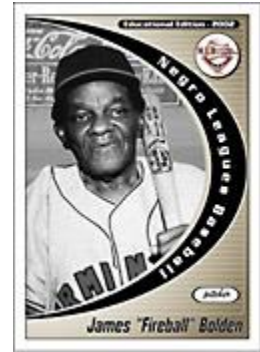
season.

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104 - James "Fireball" Bolden was born on February 8, 1923, in Birmingham, Alabama. In the heat



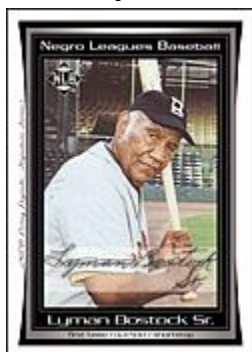
of WW2, Bolden served as a first scout in the US Army's 92nd Div. The end of the war made way for the start of his baseball career. In 1946, he made his Negro Leagues debut pitching for the Cleveland Buckeyes and quickly earned his nickname "Fireball." He joined the roster of the Birmingham Black Barons for the '47 season and spent the '48 and '49 seasons playing in Winnipeg Canada. In 1949, while working in the coal mines, Bolden was caught in a cave-in and injured pretty badly. He worked hard to make his comeback to baseball with appearances on the rosters



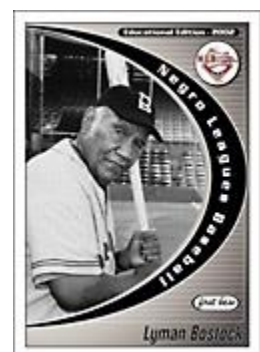
of the New Orleans Creoles, Chattanooga Choo Choo's, and the Jay Saperstein All-Star Team. For several years he served as the secretary for the Negro American League and for the 1952 season, made his final stand on the mound for the Birmingham Black Barons.

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105 - Lyman Bostock Sr. was born March 11, 1918, in Birmingham, Alabama. He spent the 1938



and '39 seasons with the independent Brooklyn Royal Giants before making his Negro Leagues Debut with the Birmingham Black Barons in 1940. He was selected to play in the East-West All-Star Game that year and remained the Black Barons 1st baseman through the '42 season. His baseball career was sidelined when he was drafted, assigned to the US Army, 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers, and deployed to the European Theatre in WW2. After three years, he returned home to the Black Barons for the 1946 season. He played for both the Chicago American Giants,



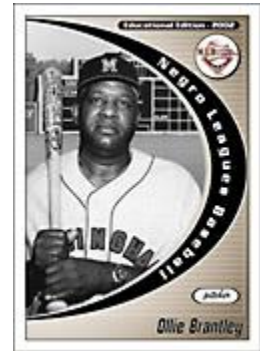
and the New York Cubans from 1947 through 1949. In 1950, Lyman took his game north to the Winnipeg Buffalos of the Mandak League to play his final four seasons.

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106 - Ollie Brantley was born on September 16, 1931, in Helena Arkansas. While pitching for his high



school team, he was scouted and encouraged by former Negro Leagues Baseball player/manager Homer "Goose" Curry to go to Memphis and try out for the Red Sox. In 1950 Ollie did just that... he made the trip and not long after, made his Negro American League debut. Brantley would take signals from Memphis Red Sox catcher Casey Jones through the '51 and '52 seasons. In 1953, Brantley was signed by the Chicago White Sox minor league organization and served them well through 1960. In 1961, Brantley was picked up by the Minnesota Twins farm system. After nine



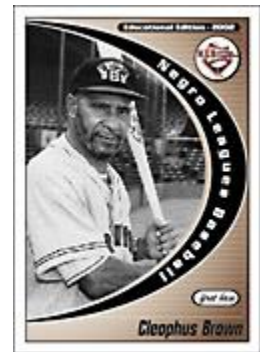
seasons with the Twins, and nearly twenty years of professional baseball behind him, Ollie made the decision to give his arm the rest it well-deserved.

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107 – Cleophus Brown was born November 25, 1933, in Pinson, Alabama. As a youngster raised in



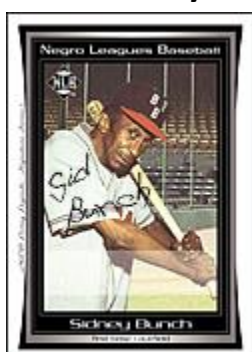
the coal-mining town of Bradford. Cleophus' love for baseball was discovered on the grounds of his one-room schoolhouse. After years of sandlot ball, Brown served a three-year tour in the US Army and while stationed at Ft. Polk Louisiana and Munich, Germany, he pitched for his post team at both locations. In 1955, Cleophus was honorably discharged and upon returning to the states, made his professional baseball debut at 1st base, for the Louisville Clippers. After just one season, Brown took a job in the local steel mill to better satisfy the needs of his



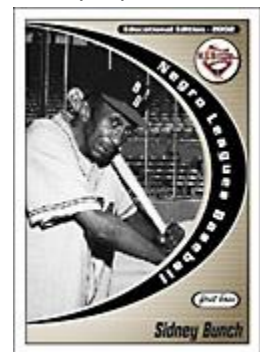
family. He continued to fulfill his love for baseball on the fields of the Industrial Leagues well into his early 60's.

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108 - Sidney Bunch was born in Nashville, Tennessee on March 29, 1931. Sidney's professional

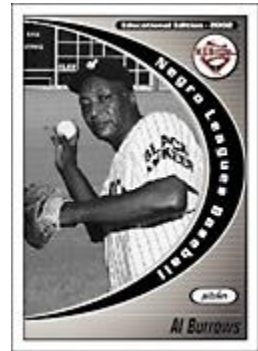


baseball career began with the 1949 Baltimore Elite Giants of the Negro American League. At the end of the 1950 season, he was signed by the Dodgers organization and played in the minors for the Billings Mustangs. After a mere nineteen games, Bunch was drafted by the US Army and honorably served in the 82nd Airborne, 508th Infantry Regiment. In 1954, Sidney made his return to baseball with the Negro American League Birmingham Black Barons and remained with them through the '55 season.



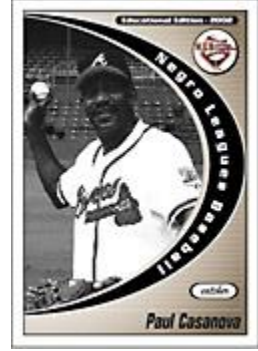
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109 - Al Burrows was born in Washington, DC. On September 15, 1932. A right-handed pitcher, Al transitioned to playing 1st base and outfield upon the sandlots of Orange County, Virginia. Burrows made his Negro American Leagues Baseball debut, in '52 barnstorming with the New York Black Yankees. He was drafted by the United States Army and assigned to the 82nd Airborne. While stationed at Ft Bragg, NC., Burrows was transferred to a Special Services detail that led to his playing baseball for the post team. He was honorably discharged in 1954, and not long after made his return to the Negro Leagues with the Kansas City Monarchs. In 1955, Burrows joined the lineup of the Indianapolis Clowns and remained with them through the 1962 season.



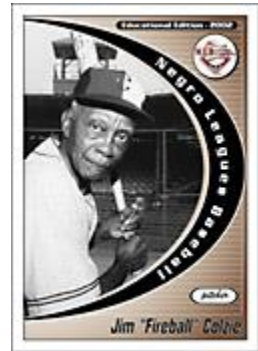
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110 - Paul Casanova was born in Matanzas, Cuba on December 31, 1941. Throughout his teen years, he honed his skills as a catcher playing semi-pro baseball in Cuba. Paul was scouted by the Cleveland Indians organization and was brought to the United States for the 1960 season. Released in early 1961, he was picked up by the Indianapolis Clowns of Negro Leagues fame where he took control behind the plate through the '61 and '62 seasons. In '65, John Caruso, a scout for Washington Senators caught up with Paul and brought him into the Senators training camp for a try-out. Paul made the Senators team as a second-string catcher and was almost instantly thrust into the starting role when the starting catcher sprained his knee. Paul's professional career spanned seven years with the Washington Senators ('65- '71) and three more with the Atlanta Braves ('72-'74).



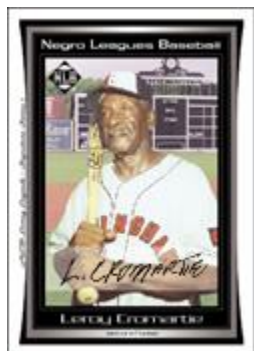
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111 - Jim "Fireball" Colzie was born on July 12, 1920, in Montezuma, Georgia. In late December of 1942 Jim answered the call to serve a three-year tour in the United States Army, 902nd Aviation Squadron. Upon his honorable discharge in late 1945, Jim spent five weeks playing baseball in Cuba before returning to the states to make his professional baseball debut with the Indianapolis Clowns in the Negro Leagues. He hurled the pill throughout the '46 and '47 seasons earning the nickname "Fireball." In the years that followed, Jim kept his foot in the door, playing the game he loved on a part time basis, traveling with his friend and teammate Richard "King Tut" King and the Harlem Globetrotter Baseball team. Jim left baseball after the '52 season stating that the highlight of his entire career was beating Satchel Paige back in 1947.

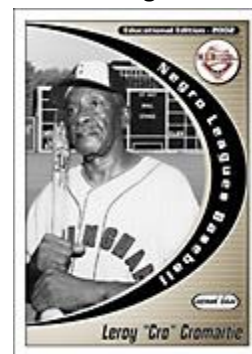


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112 - Leroy “Cro” Cromartie was born in Miami Florida on December 15, 1922. After high school,



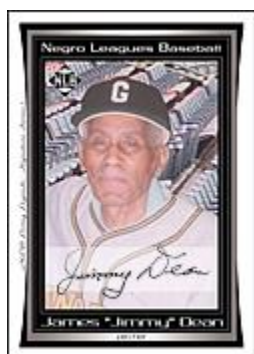
Cromartie played shortstop in the sandlots with the semi-pro Miami Giants. In 1944, while attending Florida A&M College, he became a standout football star leading his team to conference football championships in both 1944 and 1945. His gridiron greatness was recognized by the Pittsburgh Courier selecting him to their All-American Football team. It was 1945 when Cromartie took his athletic prowess to the baselines of the Negro Leagues. He spent one season as a second baseman for the Cincinnati – Indianapolis Clowns. He was driven by the competition he



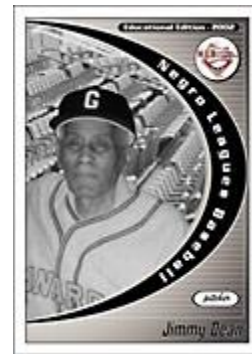
he faced in the likes of Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella. He returned to Florida A&M to lead them to the conference football championships again in 1947. In 1949, Cromartie served two years in the US Army's 96th FA, stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

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113 – James “Jimmy” Dean was born in Ambler, Pennsylvania on February 25, 1925. By the age of



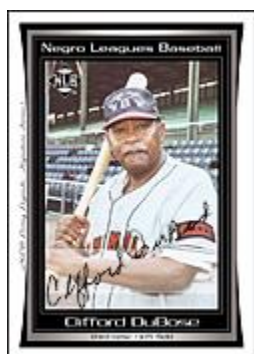
fourteen he was playing baseball on local men's teams and throughout high school was a standout athlete in both football and basketball as well. At the age of 18, Dean was deployed to the European Theatre of WW2 assigned to General Patton's 3rd Army "Red Ball Express." Dean made his Negro Leagues debut with the Philadelphia Stars in 1946. He split the '47 season, pitching for both the New York Cubans and the Black Yankees. In 1948 he returned to the Stars line-up and remained there through the '49 season. After baseball, he attended Bucknell University,



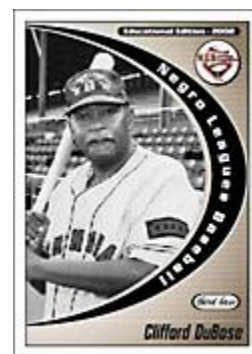
graduated a chemist, and served in that capacity for 33 years.

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114 - Clifford “Duby” DuBose was born in Montevallo, Alabama on July 16, 1937. As a young boy,



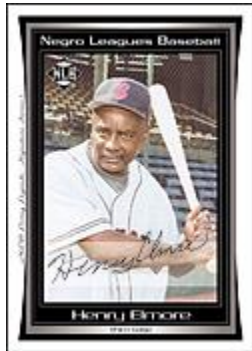
Clifford began his quest for baseball glory on a dirt road with a stick and a tennis ball, emulating the play of his heroes Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays. Years later, “Duby” played within the semi-pro industrial leagues, sharpening his skills at both third baseman and left field. In 1958, he made his professional debut with the Negro American League Birmingham Black Barons and in mid-season, was traded to the Memphis Red Sox. At the season's end, he returned to his home in Birmingham and continued his baseball career on the roster of the Stockham Valve



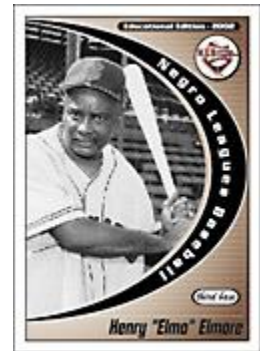
Company's semi-pro industrial league team.

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115 - Henry “Elmo” Elmore was born on December 2, 1941, in Birmingham, Alabama. Playing ball



in open lots and in the streets near his home in Birmingham was a memorable highlight of his childhood. Throughout his developmental sandlot years, Elmore worked hard to sharpen his skills. In 1960, he tried out for Ted Rasberry’s Detroit Stars and made his Negro American League debut. He returned to his hometown Birmingham in 1961 to cover third base for the Black Barons. He relished playing alongside legendary personalities Leroy “Satchel” Page and Reece “Goose” Tatum through 1962. At seasons end,



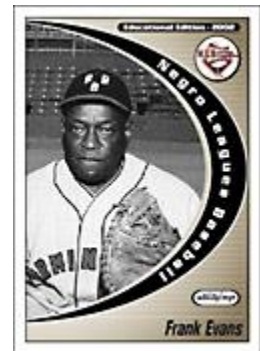
“Elmo” sought employment with the Stockham valve and pipe fitting company in town and continued to play baseball for their Industrial team for another 10 years.

BaseballinLivingColor.com.

116 - Frank Evans was born December 6, 1921, in Linden, Alabama. Throughout his baseball life,



Frank was a utility player, able to perform at a high level in multiple positions. His Negro Leagues Baseball career began with the Memphis Red Sox in the late 1930’s. Throughout the 1940’s and early ‘50’s Evans played for the Kansas City Monarchs, Birmingham Black Barons, Raleigh Tigers, Philadelphia Stars, and the Cleveland Buckeyes. In the mid 1950’s Evans was playing in the Texas League AAA minors representing both the Cleveland Indians and then the Chicago Cubs. His career had travelled full circle as he wrapped it all up in Birmingham as a manager of the Black



Barons in 1962.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

117 - Elijah Gilliam was born on July 4, 1934, in Gordonville, Alabama. While a student at Ullman



High school, he began his baseball journey with the Birmingham Browns, a local sandlot team in the Birmingham Industrial League. In 1953, while in New York City, the 6’ 7” Gilliam, pitching for the Central Park Pearls, was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, and played in their minor league farm system until 1955, when he returned to Birmingham. In ‘57, Gilliam resumed his baseball career, hurling that celebrated fastball for the Black Barons. In 1961, he joined the ranks of the Raleigh Tigers where he



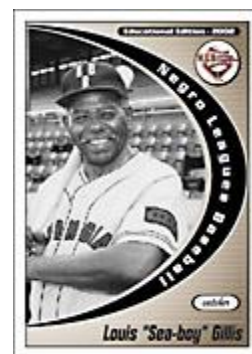
was later selected to represent the East in the annual East-West All Star Game at Yankee Stadium.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

118 – Louis “Sea-Boy” Gillis was born in Birmingham, Alabama on August 8, 1924. In 1939 at the



age fifteen, Louis dumped his football interests when he discovered his first love - baseball. In 1943, after graduating Parker High School, Gillis was drafted by the U.S. Marine Corp. He was deployed in the South Pacific and assumed his position behind a 90 mm anti-aircraft gun. When he returned to base, he took advantage of every opportunity to play baseball against the U.S. Navy teams. In 1946, “Sea-Boy” was honorably discharged and upon returning to Birmingham found employment as a catcher for Atlanta Black Crackers of the Negro Southern League through the



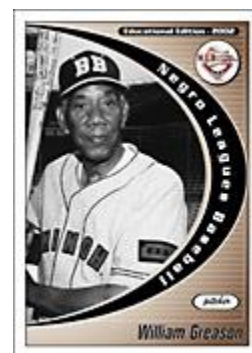
1947 season. After a few years with the House of David Ballclub, Gillis was picked up by the Negro American League Birmingham Black Barons. His tenure as catcher for the Black Barons spanned the 1950, '51, and '52 seasons.

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119 - William Greason was born September 3, 1924, in Atlanta, Georgia. He discovered his natural



talent for baseball while playing pickup games on the local sandlots with his friends from Booker T. Washington H.S. In 1943, he was drafted by the United States Marine Corps, deployed to the Pacific Theatre of WW2, and took part in the battle of Iwo Jima. As the war ended, Greason, honorably discharged, returned to Atlanta, played two years of semi-pro football, and pitched for the 1947 Nashville Black Vols. In '48, while pitching spring training for the Ashville Blues of the Negro Southern League, Greason was acquired by Birmingham Black Barons manager



Lorenzo “Piper” Davis. Stacked with talent, this team won the Negro American League Championship only to lose what would turn out to be the final Negro Leagues Baseball World Series to the Homestead Grays. In the years that followed, he was recalled by the Marine Corps to serve another tour, signed to a Double A - Texas minor league contract with the Oklahoma Indians, and made his last appearance in the Negro Leagues with the Black Barons in 1951. In 1954, he made his major league debut with the St. Louis Cardinals and remained in their organization through 1959.

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120 - Acie “Skeet” Griggs was born September 13, 1924, in Union Springs Alabama. While attending



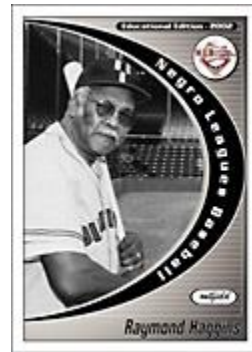
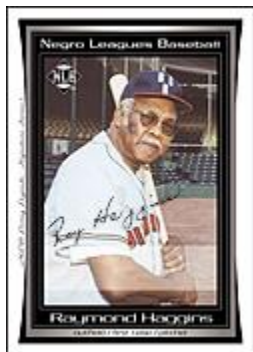
Parker High, coached by his physical education teacher Bernie McGee, Acie discovered his natural athletic abilities. After graduating High School in 1942, Griggs served in the United States Navy through 1944. Honorably discharged, he proceeded to higher education attending Alabama A&M, making his return to sports by assuming the role of quarterback for the Bulldogs. In 1947, Griggs made his professional baseball debut with the New York Cubans of the Negro Leagues. A multi-position utility style player, Acie covered the entire outfield and as needed fielded second



base, and shortstop, for the Birmingham Black Barons through the 1949 and 1950 seasons. In 1951, like so many other Negro League Baseball players, “Skeet” took his game north of the border to play several seasons within the Canadian Provincial and Mandak Leagues.

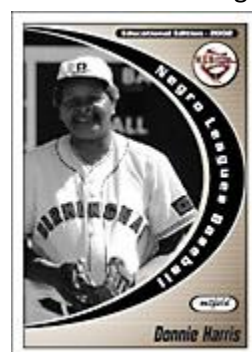
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121 - Raymond Haggins was born September 5, 1929, in Coleanor, Alabama. He grew up in the coal mining community of Bibb County, playing schoolyard baseball with his friends, and high school baseball with the U.S. Pipe Shop team in the YMCA League. In 1949, Ray played for the Nashville Cubs and in 1950, the House of David. Serving in the United States Army in 1951, Ray was assigned to an MP outfit and, while serving, played baseball for the Camp Crowder Clippers. Ray Haggins made his professional baseball debut in 1953 with the Birmingham Black Barons, finishing that season with the Memphis Red Sox. Through 1955, he was selected to play in three East-West All-Star Games. Major League teams were interested in signing Haggins, but Dr. Martin, the Memphis Red Sox owner, refused to release his contract without due compensation. Ray's opportunity to play ball in the "Bigs" was falling apart. He walked away from the game quite discouraged, but before putting his baseball career to bed, returned to the Red Sox for one final season in 1958.



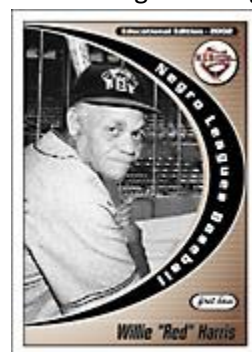
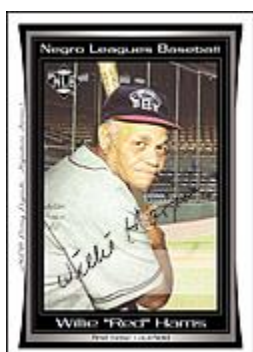
BaseballinLivingColor.com

122 - Donnie Harris was born July 1, 1936, in Jefferson County, Alabama. A student at Ullman High School, Donnie's baseball talent was displayed alongside the men in the Industrial Leagues. At Alabama A&M he garnered athletic commendations aplenty. Lettering in baseball, basketball, and track, Donnie achieved MVP Awards, All-Conference Recognition, and in 1956 Athlete of the Year. His dream to play for the Negro American League Birmingham Black Barons came true in 1957. He stood tall in the outfield and was rewarded with an East-West All-Star Game selection. In 1958, Harris was signed to the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, playing center field for their farm system team in Jacksonville, FL. He played for the Kansas City Athletics' farm system in '59 before serving a four-year tour in the United States Army.



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123 - Willie "Red" Harris was born December 12, 1932, in Birmingham, Alabama. After graduating Ullman High, Harris enlisted in the United States Army, serving in Ft. Jackson, SC. and Ft. Hood, TX. He made his professional baseball debut in the Negro American League, at first base with the Louisville Clippers in 1954 and finished that season with the Memphis Red Sox and made his first East-West All-Star Game at Comiskey Park in Chicago. He produced for the Red Sox throughout the 1956 season, garnering two more East-West All-Star Game appearances. In 1957 "Red" was picked up by the Birmingham Black Barons and covered the bag at first through the 1958 season.

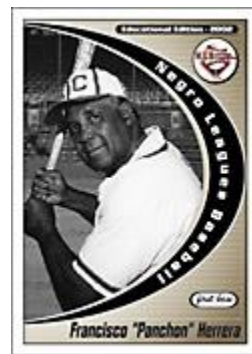


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124 - Francisco “Poncho” Herrera was born June 16, 1933, in Havana Cuba. His introduction to



professional baseball came in 1952, on the fields of the Negro American League’s, Kansas City Monarchs managed “Buck” O’Neil. He sometimes covered the bag at first but worked primarily behind home plate through both the 1953 and 1954 seasons. He enjoyed “Barnstorming” with the Monarchs to generate additional revenue for the club. On their way to scheduled games, the team would entertain small town fans by showcasing their talent against local teams, military teams, House of David, and the Harlem Globetrotters among others. In 1955, “Pancho” was signed



by the Philadelphia Phillies organization and played within their farm system through 1961. In the off season, he’d return to Cuba to play for the Havana Lions, and the Cienfuegos Elephants.

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125 - Carl “Yogi” Holden was born August 22, 1941, in Madison County, Alabama. Carl took a liking



to baseball in a sandlot league suiting up with the local Huntsville Giants. As a young man, he sharpened his skills while playing for the Rocket City Dodgers and the Huntsville Hawks. In 1960, Holden attended a Baltimore Oriole Training Camp and three weeks in, was sidelined by a knee injury. Shortly thereafter, Carl was offered an opportunity to try out with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League. When the season commenced, Carl was the Black Barons starting catcher. At the close of the 1960 season, “Yogi” took his game back Huntsville returning to



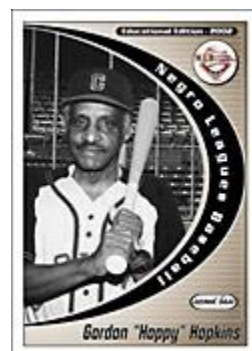
the lineup of the Hawks for the '61 and '62 Seasons.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

126 - Gordon “Hoppy” Hopkins was born June 30, 1934, in Olney, Maryland. As a student at



Lincoln High, Gordon played in the school band as well as second base for their 1949 state championship baseball team. Upon graduation, he went to Harlem, NY to be with family and played sandlot ball with the “Crusaders.” It wasn’t long before opportunity came knocking. In 1952, Hopkins was awarded a personal tryout before business manager “Bunny” Downs of the Negro American Leagues Indianapolis Clowns. He packed his bags, and continued the tryout on the road, covering second base for the House of David. By mid-season, he was a fixture in the Indianapolis



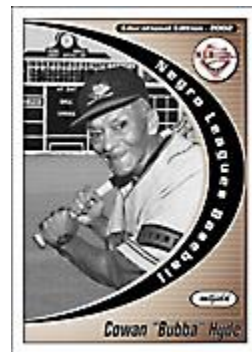
Clowns starting line-up. From 1952 through 1954, “Hoppy” covered 1st base, 2nd base, and the outfield as well. Drafted by the United States Army in '54, and due to report within a year, Hopkins decided to enlist with the Marines and was off to Paris Island, to begin his four-year assignment to the 8th Engineer Battalion at Camp Lejeune.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

127 - Cowan "Bubba" Hyde was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi on April 10, 1909. At the age of



fourteen, Cowan tried out for the Memphis Red Sox. His return in 1927 was the beginning of a fascinating career that lasted more than thirty years. Standing a mere 5' 8 1/2", 155 lbs., he was a good hitter that possessed base-stealing speed. He covered all positions in the outfield and in his later years held down second base. Outside of a few seasons, with the Birmingham Black Barons in 1930 and the Cincinnati Tigers in '37, Hyde was a fixture in Memphis Red Sox Organization and an honored Negro Leagues All-Star in 1943 and 1946. The 1950 season would be his last in the

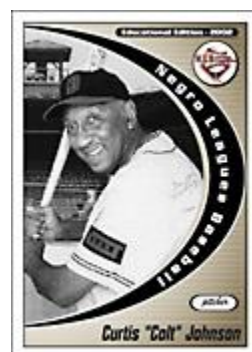


Negro Leagues. Cowan made the move to Canada to play in the Mandak League for five more years proving himself to be a league top hitter at the ripe old age of 42. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**

128 - Curtis "Colt" Johnson was born October 31, 1932, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He lost his dad



in 1945, and through his admiration for Negro Leagues Baseball heroes, Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, and Jackie Robinson, "Colt" discovered a desire for the game of baseball. Upon graduating from Booker T. Washington High, Johnson broke into the Negro Leagues as a pitcher and outfielder for Buck O'Neil's Kansas City Monarchs. Late in the season, Johnson was scouted by the Chicago White Sox and offered a minor league contract to join their farm system. He chose instead to pass on this opportunity and returned to school to further his education at Grambling

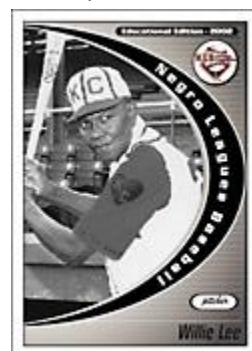


University. In 1954, Johnson was drafted by the United States Army and assigned to the 588th Engineer Battalion. Honorably discharged in 1956, Johnson was signed by the New York Yankees organization and played a few years of minor league ball in St. Petersburg, Florida. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**

129 - Willie Lee was born March 19, 1935, in Birmingham Alabama. He discovered his passion for the



game of baseball on the grounds of Parker and Western Olin High Schools. He aspired to be the Willie Mays of his day, running down flies in the outfield of his sandlot ball clubs, the Ensley Dukes, and the Fairfield Greystones. In 1956, Lee made his debut as a pitcher with the Birmingham Black Barons and finished out that season with the Kansas City Monarchs. He remained with the Monarchs through the 1958 season and was selected to play in the East-West All-Star Game played at Comiskey Park. His most memorable moment in his baseball career occurred in this



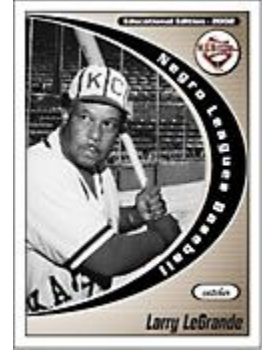
game – stepping to the plate, table set, he hit a "Grand Slam!" In the years that followed, Lee spent four years the minor leagues - two with the Detroit Tigers organization and two with the Minnesota Twins.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

130 - Larry LeGrande was born May 25, 1939, in Roanoke, Virginia. The youngest of nine children,



Larry grew up with a fine understanding of what hard work was, tending to the hogs, chickens, and crops on the family's mini farm just outside of Roanoke. At 14, Larry was catching for the Webster All-Stars, a local sandlot team and a few years later was calling the action from behind the plate for Carver High. In the spring of 1957, Larry attended a Negro American League game between the Birmingham Black Barons and the Memphis Red Sox in Salem, VA. After graduation, LeGrande drove to Memphis, tried out for the Red Sox, and was added to their roster to finish out the '57



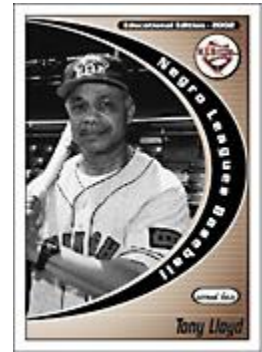
season. Larry spent the '58 season with the Detroit Stars and the '59 with the Kansas City Monarchs catching for the one and only Satchel Paige. He was briefly signed by the Yankees and sent to their farm system in Florida. He returned to Kansas City to close out the '60 season a Monarch. From 1961 to 1963, LeGrande played for the Satchel Paige All-Stars.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

131 - Tony Lloyd was born April 27, 1936, in Fairfield, Alabama. He attended Fairfield Industrial High



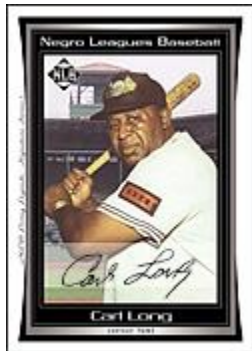
and continued his education at the Tuskegee Institute. Inspired by his baseball heroes, Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, and Larry Doby, Tony tried out for the Tuskegee Tigers, and under the direction of coaches Figarow, Van Cleve and Daniels, took charge of second base throughout his four years. After college he joined the Gray Sox of the Industrial League and in the spring of 1959, made his professional debut with the Birmingham Black Barons. This would turn out to be his only season with the team, but it was certainly a memorable one. At seasons end his Black



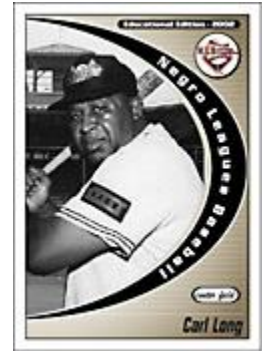
Barons were the Negro American League's Champions.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

132 - Carl "The Kid" Long was born May 9, 1935, in Rock Hill, South Carolina. In 1952, Carl made



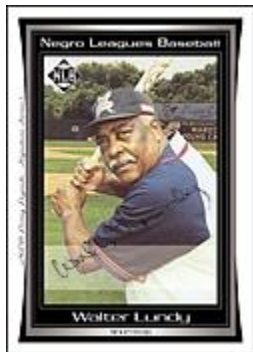
his professional baseball debut in the outfield for the Negro American League Birmingham Black Barons. His performance through the '53 season earned him a spot in the annual East-West All-Star Game lineup. Long was signed by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1954 for a season with their Provincial League affiliate in Quebec Canada and then transferred to Montana in '55 to join the Billings, Mustangs. His minor league career continued with the Phoenix Stars, Kinston Eagles, Beaumont Pirates, and the Mexico City Tigers and at season's end in '57, a shoulder injury brought



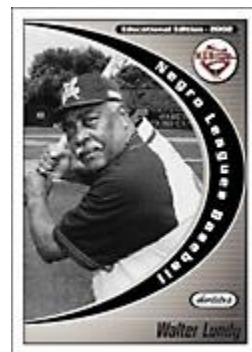
down the final curtain on Carl's baseball career. He says the Negro Leagues made a man of him... prepared him for the road he was destined to travel.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

133 - Walter Lundy was born December 10, 1935, in Norfolk, Virginia. Throughout his childhood,



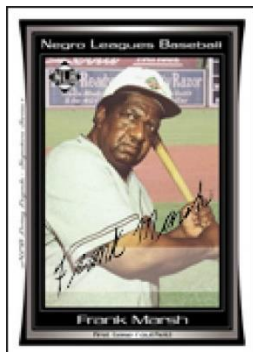
Walt attended summer baseball camps alongside his best friend, Sam Allen. In his senior year as shortstop for Booker T. Washington High's "Mighty Bookers," Lundy was scouted by both the Dodgers and the Pirates. He'd eventually sign with the Chicago White Sox in 1956, and joined their farm system in Hollywood, Florida. While traveling through southern states with a predominantly all white team, Walt was forced to endure the prejudice and discrimination of Jim Crow Law. Walt left the White Sox organization and spent the '57 season at shortstop for the barnstorming



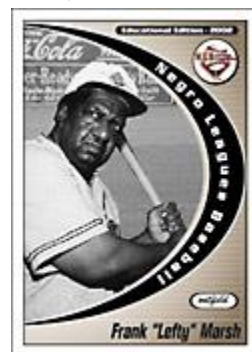
Indianapolis Clowns. It was a hard life to grow accustomed to and when the season ended so did his baseball career.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

134 - Frank "Lefty" Marsh was born January 9, 1931, in Mobile, Alabama. In 1949, Marsh enrolled



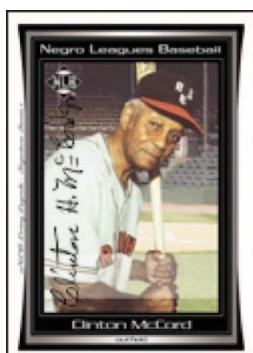
at Grambling University, and represented the Tigers on the fields of the Southwest Athletic Conference. He was drafted by U.S. Army but chose instead to enlist in the Air Force and began his service assigned to the Headquarters Squadron at Lackland AFB. In 1953, "Lefty" returned to Mobile, was signed by the St. Louis Cardinals farm team, and sent to Johnson City. In 1954, Marsh made his Negro American League debut with the Birmingham Black Barons and covered the bag at first through 1956. He spent the '57 and '58 seasons with the Kansas City Monarchs, and the '59



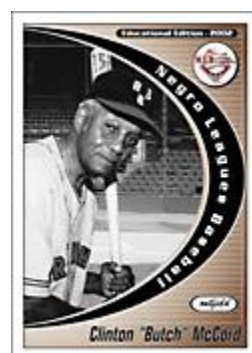
season with the Detroit Stars. After baseball, Marsh returned to Grambling, finished his degree, and proceeded to serve his community for decades as a teacher.

BaseballinLivingColor.com.

135 - Clinton "Butch" McCord was born November 2, 1925, in Nashville, Tennessee. Just out of



high school, McCord was called to serve in the United States Navy. Assigned a steward's mate to a tanker unit in Cambridge, MD, McCord was denied the opportunity to play baseball on the Naval Base team. He proceeded to make a daily toss with a friend part of his training routine for two years. "Butch" returned to Nashville in '46, and in 1947, found a job covering 1st base for the Negro Southern League Nashville Cubs. In 1948, signed by "Fat Pappy" Green, "Butch" made his Negro Leagues debut with the Baltimore Elite Giants and remained with them through the



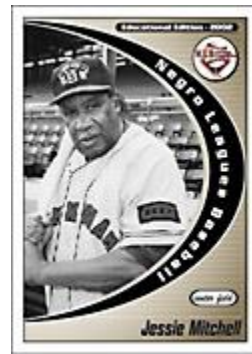
'49 season. Traded to Chicago in 1950, he produced big for the American Giants. McCord began his minor league career in '51, signing with the Paris Lakers of the Mississippi-Ohio Valley league. Through 1961, "Butch" was a standout performer for several minor league teams winning the coveted Silver Glove Award two seasons in a row.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

136 - Jessie Mitchell was born May 13, 1934, in Autauga County, Alabama. His baseball career began



in the Industrial league, playing for the ACIPCO Pipemen. Watching Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays inspired Jesse to chase his baseball dreams. In early '54, Mitchell broke into the Negro American League playing outfield for the Louisville Clippers. He was traded to Birmingham mid-season and remained with the Black Barons through the 1957 season. Jessie was selected to play in the annual East-West All-Star game in '55, '56 and '57. He covered the outfield for the Kansas City Monarchs in '59 and was once again selected to play in the East-West All-Star Game.

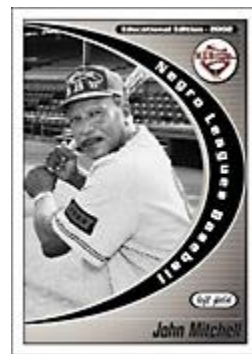


BaseballinLivingColor.com

137 - John Mitchell was born December 25, 1937, in Autauga County, Alabama. The Mitchell



brothers were drawn to the game of baseball at a very early age. John, followed in his older brother Jessie's footsteps, and made his Negro American League debut in left field for the '55 Detroit Stars. In 1957, he joined the roster of the Birmingham Black Barons and later that season appeared in his first East West All-Star Game at Comiskey Field in Chicago, Illinois. Mitchell remained with the Black Barons through the 1960 season and appeared in three more East-West All-Star Game's.

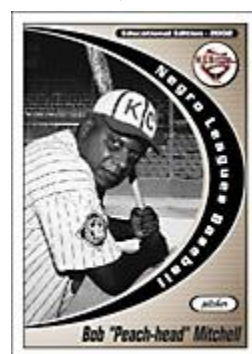


BaseballinLivingColor.com

138 - Bob "Peach Head" Mitchell was born November 8, 1932, in West Palm Beach, Florida. He



attended the historic Industrial High School until it closed in 1950; transferred to Roosevelt High and graduated in 1951. In early '52, while pursuing a baseball career, Mitchell earned a spot in the bullpen of the Lakeland Cubans of the Florida Negro League and pitched for them through 1953. Bob tried out for the Negro American League, Kansas City Monarchs and was signed by manager John "Buck" O'Neil in 1954. He joined all-star Satchel Paige in the pitching rotation and gave them his very best for four full seasons. Bob's baseball career ended in '57, or so he thought. More



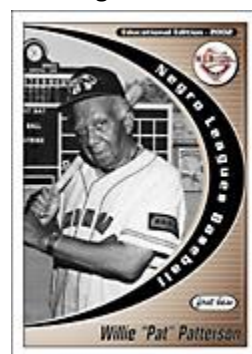
than four decades had passed when Bob was called to pitch what would be his most memorable game. He challenged the qualification regulations established by the Major Leagues that were being used to determine the pension eligibility for Negro League Baseball Veterans. Deep into extra innings, Bob recorded his greatest victory. The criteria for pension qualification were amended and financial compensation was awarded to a well deserving class of Negro American League Baseball Alumni.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

139 - Willie “Pat” Patterson was born April 1, 1919, in Americus, Georgia. He went to work as a catcher on baseball fields in Birmingham, representing Republic Steel of the Industrial Leagues. In 1945,



he made his professional baseball debut for the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues. He called the signals from behind home plate and when he was needed, covered 1st base and 3rd base for manager Tommy Sampson. In 1948, he was signed by the Memphis Red Sox. From this point forward, Patterson’s career took a grand tour. Throughout the following seven seasons, he’d play for the Chattanooga Choo Choo’s, Chicago American Giants, Philadelphia Stars, New York Cubans, a season in the Canadian Provincial Leagues, Ted Rasberry’s Detroit Stars,

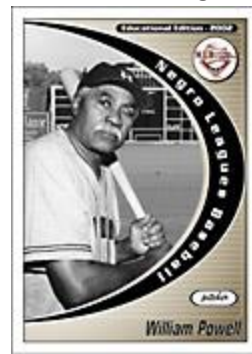


the Louisville Clippers, and finally return to the place it all began with the Black Barons in Birmingham, Alabama. His whirlwind career included appearances in the annual East-West All-Star Game in both 1952 and 1953. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**

140 - William Powell was born May 8, 1919, in Toccoa, Georgia. His family relocated to Birmingham



when he was just nine years old. Upon graduating high school, Powell took a job at the American Cast Iron Pipe Company and began his baseball career as a pitcher for the ACIPCO Pipemen, in the Birmingham Industrial League. Powell was drafted by the United States Army in 1942, deployed to the Pacific Theatre of WW2, and completed his service on the island of Saipan in 1945. Upon his return to Birmingham, William was signed by the Black Barons and began a professional baseball career in the Negro Leagues that would span six years. A right-handed fastball pitcher,

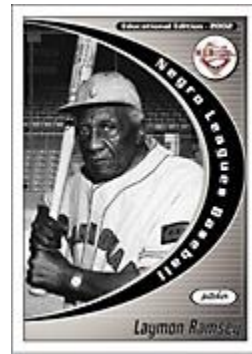


Powell played a pivotal role in the team’s 1948 campaign to capture the Negro American League Pennant and was twice selected to the East-West All-Star Game. In 1951, signed by the Sacramento Saints, Powell embarked upon a minor league career that spanned 11 years. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**

141 - Laymon Ramsey was born August 24, 1917, in Grady, Alabama. Raised in Pratt City, his father

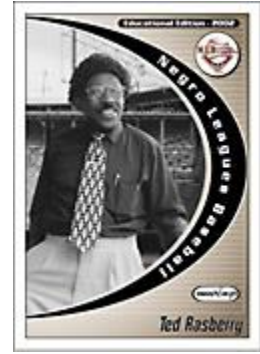


worked in the Pratt Mines until operations were shut down in 1920. As a young man, Laymon found employment with the American Cast Iron Pipe Co. A right-handed pitcher, Ramsey began his baseball career in the Birmingham Industrial Leagues. He made his Negro Leagues debut with the Birmingham Black Barons in 1945. His combination of over the top, side arm and submarine deliveries made it tough for batters to figure him out. Every season he showed up for spring training with the Black Barons, however, when time came to signing contracts, Laymon was always offered



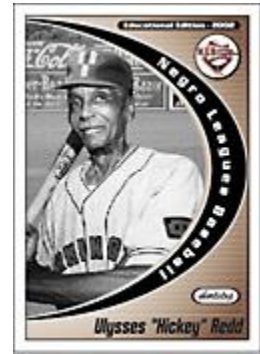
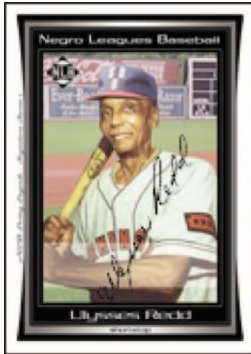
more money by other teams in the league. So, he spent the next five seasons pitching for the Memphis Red Sox, the Chicago American Giants, and the Cleveland Buckeyes. In '51 Ramsey, connected with his friends “Goose” Tatum and Richard “King Tut” King of the Harlem Globetrotter’s, and played out his career barnstorming with them. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**

142 - Ted Rasberry was born October 8, 1913, in West Point, Mississippi. He attended a small one-room schoolhouse before enrolling at the local Ministerial Institute - College. In 1944, Rasberry formed the Grand Rapids Black Sox, entered the team in a Midwest mixed league, and led the charge to make them a championship team. Ten years later, Ted made his debut in the Negro American League as an owner of the Detroit Stars in 1954. He provided managerial assistance to team manager Frank Evans, and at times was known to play the field. At the end of the 1955 season, Rasberry purchased the Kansas City Monarchs and fielded that team in 1956, managed by Olan "Jelly" Taylor and "Dizzy" Dismukes. In 1957, he sold interest in the Stars to his niece and the team became known as the New Orleans - Detroit Stars. Ted owned two of the final four Negro American League teams when the curtain finally fell in 1963.



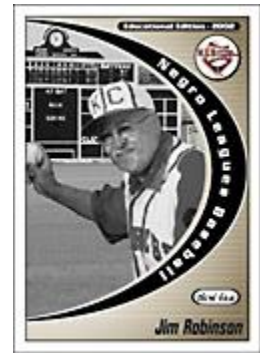
BaseballinLivingColor.com

143 - Ulysses "Hickey" Redd was born November 13, 1914, in Baton Rouge, LA. As a young man, Redd played sandlot ball for the local Black Pelicans. In 1940, he was invited to attend the Birmingham Black Barons spring training in Jackson, Mississippi. At the season opener in Birmingham, Redd was their starting shortstop, batting sixth. In 1941, Redd was drafted by the United States Army and assigned to the 7th Air Force. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was transferred to the 1894th Engineer Aviation Battalion and served in Saipan and Okinawa. He returned to the states in 1945 and was picked up by the Cincinnati Crescents managed by Winfield Welsh. In '46 he played for the Seattle Steelheads of the West Coast Negro Baseball League. He then played north of the border a few seasons in the Canadian Leagues with many of his teammates. He returned to the Negro American League in 1950, to play for the Chicago American Giants through the '53 season. He opened '54 with the Harlem Globetrotters and played for them through the '57 season.



BaseballinLivingColor.com

144 - Jim Robinson was born to Alma and James Robinson on January 21, 1930, in New York City. He began his baseball career on the sandlot fields of Morningside Park, nicknamed "The Dustbowl." Upon Graduating from Commerce High, Jim proceeded to North Carolina A&T State University on a baseball scholarship. In September of 1952, Jim made his Negro Leagues Baseball debut, signed by Philadelphia Stars manager Oscar Charleston and played out the remainder of the season. In '53, Jim played for the Indianapolis Clowns and had an outstanding season. He was signed by Quincy Troupe and reported to the St. Louis Cardinals organization for the '54 and '55 seasons. In spring of 1956, Jim returned to the Negro American League and covered the bag at second for Ted Rasberry's Kansas City Monarchs. After his three seasons with the Monarchs and three annual East-West All Star Game appearances, Robinson's professional baseball career came to an end.

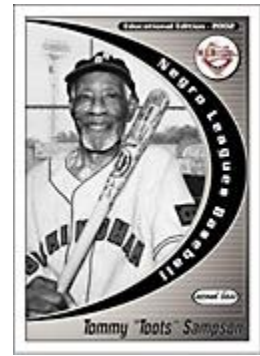


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145 – Tommy “Toots” Sampson was born August 31, 1912, in Calhoun, Alabama. Growing up in



Raleigh, West Virginia, Tommy left school at the age of seventeen, worked in the coal mines for eight years and played baseball on weekends with local semipro teams. In 1940, while playing in Atlanta, Georgia, “Toots” caught the eye of the Birmingham Black Barons manager, Jim “Candy” Taylor. Sampson was signed and returned to Birmingham with Taylor to begin his Negro Leagues Baseball career. He played on some of the strongest teams in Black Barons history. A strong hitter and stolen base leader, “Toots” represented the West in four consecutive East-West All



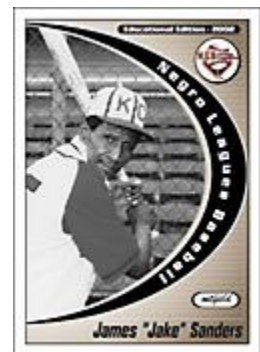
Star Games and played an instrumental part in the team’s success in becoming the 1943 and 1944 Negro American League Pennant Champions. In 1946 season, Sampson became the BBB player/manager and served in that capacity through the ‘47 season. In early 1948, Sampson and Ramsey discovered Willie Mays, introduced him to the Black Barons new manager “Piper” Davis and the rest is history. “Toots” proceeded to Chicago American Giants for the 1948 season and finished up his career with the New York Cubans in 1949.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

146 – James “Jake” Sanders was born August 31, 1934, in Fairfield Alabama. Using a broomstick



and a tennis ball on the side lot of Englewood Elementary School, Jake learned the game of baseball. He attended Fairfield Industrial High just a few years behind Willie Mays. Upon graduating high school, Jake played a few seasons in the Industrial Leagues. He’d get his big break in 1955, while attending spring training for the Birmingham Black Barons. Sanders started the 1956 season in the outfield of the New Orleans Bears, and after an exhibition game, was signed by the Detroit-New Orleans Stars of the Negro American League. He finished out that ‘56 season with the Kansas City



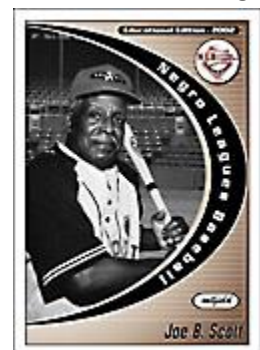
Monarchs, was selected to play in the annual East-West All Star Game at Comiskey Park. He was signed by the Dodgers organization but was released in early ‘57. Jake was returned to the Kansas City Monarchs where he played through the close of the ‘58 season.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

147 - Joe B. Scott was born was born October 2, 1920, in Memphis, Tennessee. He moved to Chicago



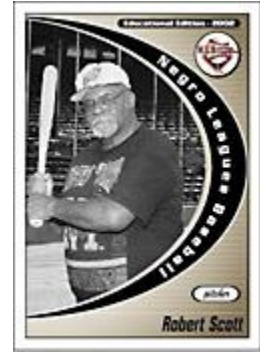
at the age of 16 and attended Tilden High. In 1937, Tilden won the City Championship and in doing so made history as Joe B. became the first African American to play ball on Wrigley Field. After graduating high school, Scott went to work loading beef into boxcars and played baseball for the company’s industrial league team. Joe played alongside Satchel Paige in 1939 for the independent barnstorming team known as the Zulu Giants before making his Negro Leagues debut with the Pittsburgh Crawfords. In 1942, with the Memphis Red Sox, Mr. Scott was batting .742 before his



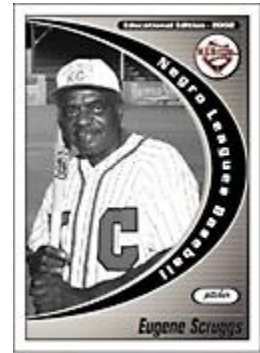
season ended abruptly - drafted by the United States Army. He was assigned to an Aviation Squadron at Wilbur Wright Field, Ohio and played for the Wright Field Kitty Hawks before being deployed to Europe. Upon his honorable discharge and return to the States, Scott rejoined the Memphis Red Sox. Outside of a few seasons split between the Chicago American Giants and the Mandak League in Canada, Mr. Scott played the majority of his career in his hometown of Memphis.

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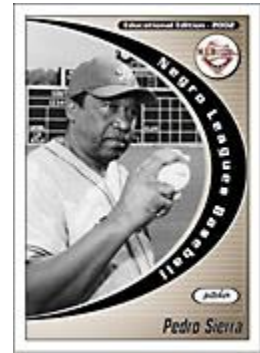
148 - Robert Scott was born June 22, 1930, in Macon, Georgia. Introduced to the game of baseball at a very early age, Scott, coached by his father, played alongside his dad with the Macon Braves. His dad inspired him to dream big and encouraged him to work hard. He started out as a pitcher for the Macon Cardinals and local sandlot teams through his school days at Hudson High. He made his professional baseball debut in 1946, pitching and playing first base for the New York Black Yankees of the Negro National League. He remained a part of the Black Yankees organization through their 1950 season. In 1951 he returned to the local industrial teams and wrapped up his career with the Sandersville Giants of the Georgia State League. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**



149 - Eugene Scruggs was born May 17, 1938, in Madison County, Alabama. He grew up alongside six brothers, attended a one-room schoolhouse and worked on a local farm. Inspired by his baseball heroes Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, Larry Doby and others, Eugene set out to build a baseball career of his own. In early '56, Scruggs moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan and was introduced to the management of the Negro American League's Detroit Stars owned by Ted Rasberry. Eugene was signed by the Stars and pitched there for two seasons. Throughout these years, they would quite often barnstorm – traveling from city to city, and state to state, generating additional revenue and entertaining the locals. Scruggs put his baseball career to bed after his pitching the 1958 season with the Kansas City Monarchs. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**



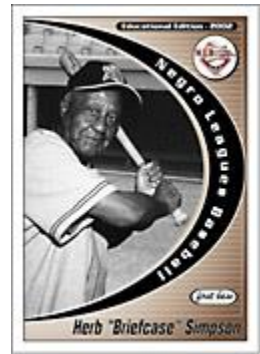
150 - Pedro Sierra was born on July 26, 1938, in Havana, Cuba. In 1954, Pedro signed his first professional baseball contract with the Negro American League Indianapolis Clowns at the age of 16. At the conclusion of the '54 season he went back to Cuba, played winter baseball, and returned to the states in 1955 to go to work on the mound for the Detroit Stars. He stayed with the Stars through the 1958 season and was selected in each of these years to pitch in the coveted East-West All-Star Game played in Comiskey Park. Sierra served in the United States Army and pitched for the Ft. Hood Tankers, before joining the Minnesota Twins farm system in 1962. At the very start of the 1971 season, Pedro would become the last Negro League Baseball Veteran to attend spring training with a Major League Team (Washington Senators). Before the start of the Senators final game at RFK Stadium, Mr. Sierra was summoned to pitch batting practice. **BaseballinLivingColor.com**



151 - Herb "Briefcase" Simpson was born August 29, 1920, in Hahnville, LA. His dad a well-



seasoned baseball player himself, coached Herb from his earliest days. Simpson played sandlot ball with the Winfield Devils. In 1939, he joined the Algiers Giants a local semi-pro ballclub that was frequently challenged by barnstorming Negro Leagues Teams. He remained with the Giants into the 1941 season when he was drafted by the United States Army. After nearly four years, Herb returned to the States in 1945 and played for several seasons split between Abe Saperstein's Seattle Steelheads of the West Coast Negro Baseball League, Cincinnati Crescents managed by Winfield



Welsh, and the Harlem Globetrotters led by "Goose" Tatum. In 1951, "Briefcase" spent the season with the Chicago American Giants, before making his minor league debut in 1952, with the Spokane Indians. He played with the Albuquerque Dukes through the '52 and '53 seasons, and the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League in 1954, where he finished his baseball career. BaseballinLivingColor.com

152 - Frank "Hoss" Thompson was born January 22, 1923, in Shelbyville, Tennessee. He played



football for John McAdams High School and baseball for the Shelbyville Black Cats. He was drafted by the United States Army, assigned to the 240 Quartermaster Corps, and deployed to the European Theatre of WW2. Upon returning to the States, "Hoss" was picked up by the Nashville Cubs of the Negro Southern League. He was a right hand, fast ball pitcher that possessed a wicked drop-ball. He traveled north of the border to pitch a few seasons in the Canadian leagues before he made his Negro Leagues Baseball debut with the Cleveland Buckeyes in 1948. He was signed by the



Baltimore Elite Giants for the 1949 and 1950 seasons. "Hoss" was selected to play in two East-West All Star Games. He was part of the bullpen for the East, coached by Oscar Charleston, battling the West coached by "Buck" O'Neil. In the early 1950's, he wrapped up his career with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League and returned to his home in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

153 - Sam Thompson was born July 7, 1937, in Columbia, South Carolina. He moved to New York in



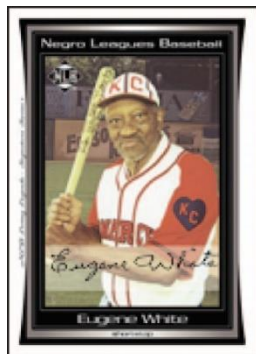
1945 and began his baseball career on the sandlots. He was primarily a southpaw pitcher that also covered the outfield for George Washington High School. In 1959, Sam was signed by the Negro American League Raleigh Tigers, managed by Ted "Double Duty" Radcliff. The Tigers were known to take on all comers and that included local prison teams. His 1960 season was split between the Detroit Stars and Kansas City Monarchs. In 1961, he was signed by the Cincinnati Reds, played in the Florida State League and helped them capture the Championship Pennant. In



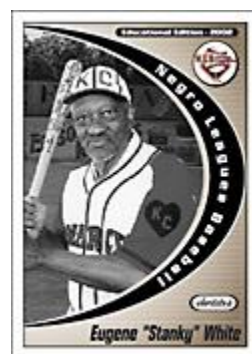
November of 1961, Thompson entered the United States Army and served as an MP assigned to the 4th Armored Division, stationed in Germany. Honorably discharged, Thompson returned to the Cincinnati Reds farm system and played four more seasons wrapping up his baseball career with the Knoxville Smokies in 1967.

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154 - Eugene "Stanky" White was born October 1, 1926, in Jacksonville Florida. He spent his



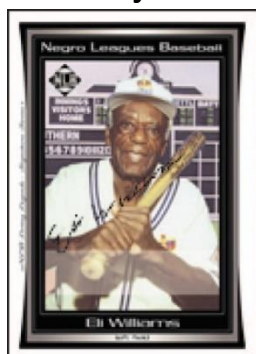
childhood playing baseball in the local sandlots. In 1944, at the age of 18, Eugene left Stanton College and served two years in the United States Army, stationed in Wichita Falls, Texas. He returned to Stanton in 1946 and finished his studies. From 1947 through the 1949, "Stanky," a righthanded switch-hitting shortstop, split his play between the Raleigh Tigers and the Jacksonville Eagles, affiliates of the Negro American Association. The Chicago American Giants of the Negro American League signed White for the 1950 and '51 seasons. In the spring of 1952,



"Stanky" joined the Harlem Globetrotters and barnstormed the countryside with an incredible team of ball players through the '53 season. White moved back to Jacksonville, FL and coached for a few years before the Kansas City Monarchs (owned by Ted Rasberry) brought him back to the Negro American League for the 1956 and '57 seasons.

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155 – Elijah "Eli" Williams was born November 8, 1916, in Camden, Alabama. He lost his dad early



in life and was forced to grow up fast. The Great Depression brought great hardship to the Williams family. In helping his mom provide for his brothers and sisters, Eli dropped out of school and began working at a local sawmill until he could be hired by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Eli made time to chase his baseball dreams in the local sandlots and Industrial Leagues. A right-handed, left side hitter, Eli broke into professional baseball by making his Negro National League debut in the outfield for the Harrisburg Stars in 1943. He spent the 1944 season with the Miami Giants, and



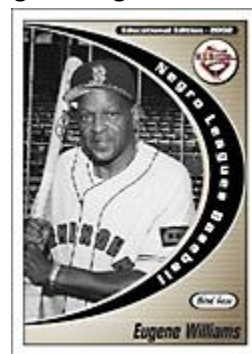
the 1945 and the 1946 seasons with the Negro American League Kansas City Monarchs playing alongside Satchel Paige and Jackie Robinson.

BaseballinLivingColor.com

156 - Eugene Williams was born August 13, 1932, in Auburn, Alabama. Throughout high school he



was a standout athlete in baseball, basketball, and football. In 1950, Eugene was offered a college football scholarship but declined. He chose instead to chase baseball dreams and established his roots with the hometown Oak Ridge Bombers. Scouted by the St. Louis Cardinals organization at a tryout, Eugene was signed, attended spring training in Florida, and then rushed off to pitch for the Duluth Dukes in Minnesota. After being traded to the Chicago White Sox organization and spending a few seasons playing ball in South America, Eugene became discontented and



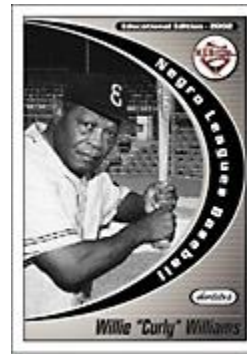
contemplated hanging it all up. He returned to Tennessee and in early 1957 attended a Negro Leagues game in Knoxville. Memphis Red Sox manager "Goose" Curry recognized Williams and called him out. Eugene suited up, joined the team on the field, and gave them what they had hoped for. He was picked by the Red Sox, pitched, and played third base with them for three full seasons. In 1960, he joined the Birmingham Black Barons lineup and played for manager Frank Evans, through the 1962 season.

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157 - Willie “Curley” Williams was born May 25, 1925, in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He played



football in high school and played baseball for his hometown Orangeburg Tigers. Teams from the Negro Leagues would roll into town quite frequently to challenge the Tigers. In 1945, he made his professional baseball debut with the Newark Eagles. At the end of the 1946 season, his Eagles captured the Negro National League Pennant and proceeded to win the Negro Leagues World Series Championship. After the 1948 season, the Negro National League disbanded, and the Eagles moved to Houston and joined the Negro American League. Willie



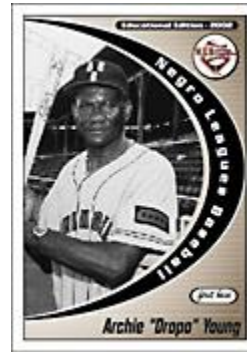
made the move and played there for two more seasons. In 1950, “Curley” was selected to play in the annual East-West All Star Game played at Comiskey Park. The Eagles relocated to New Orleans in 1951 and at season’s end, Williams was signed by the Chicago White Sox and joined their minor league farm system. After a few seasons, Williams took his game north to Canada, for several more.

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158 - Archie “Dropo” Young was born September 30, 1930, in Livingston, Alabama. He moved to



Birmingham at the age of eleven. Before completing high school, Archie took a job at Fairfield Steel and played industrial league baseball. In January of 1948, he went to work in the coal mines and in 1950, was drafted by the United States Army and assigned to a tank battalion. Transferred to a Field Artillery Base in Georgia, Archie continued his baseball career on military teams. Honorably discharged, he returned to the mines by day and attended night school at Parker High School to earn his diploma. The Louisville Clippers came to Birmingham in the spring of



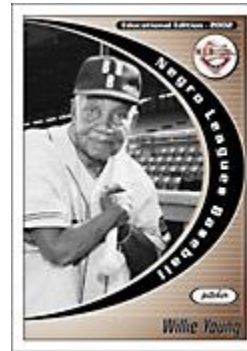
1955 for training camp. Archie attended the tryouts, made the cuts, and joined the Clippers lineup. In 1956, he played for the Negro American League Birmingham Black Barons and closed out his baseball career with them at the end of the 1957 season.

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159 - Willie Young was born in Birmingham, Alabama on July 12, 1912. Willie was born with no right



hand and throughout his childhood, navigated great challenges to develop his pitching craft. Willie worked for the American Cast Iron Pipe Company from 1933 to 1934 and pitched for their Industrial league team for two seasons. In 1935 he was hired by the Stockham Valve Company and continued his baseball career pitching in their Industrial League team lineup. In the spring 1945, Lorenzo “Piper” Davis, team manager for the Birmingham Black Barons, met with Willie to solicit his pitching services. Management at Stockham, well aware of the investment



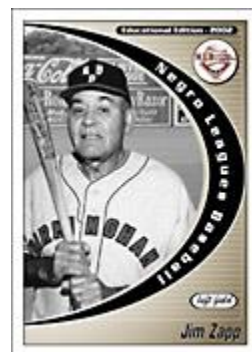
Willie had made to the game of baseball, granted Mr. Young a leave of absence. At the age of 32, Willie Young, the “Birmingham Southpaw” made his Negro Leagues debut with the 1945 Birmingham Black Barons. At season’s end, he returned to his position at Stockham and gave them another thirty years before he’d retire in 1975.

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160 - Jim “Zipper” Zapp was born April 18, 1924, in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1942, Jim enlisted in



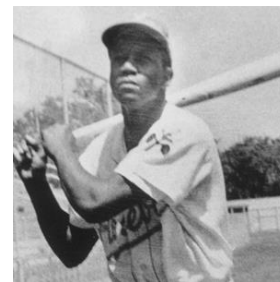
the United States Navy and from Great Lakes, Illinois, was deployed to Pearl Harbor. His military assignment was segregated, as were the military baseball teams. Jim integrated the white team playing third base for one season and played on the black team for two more seasons before being transferred to his final Navy assignment in Staten Island, New York. He was recruited there, by the Baltimore Elite Giants in 1945 and played part time, on the weekends alongside Campanella, Kimbro, and Wright. Discharged in 1946, he was signed by “Fat Pappy” Green to play with the



Baltimore team full time. Around mid-season, Jim was dropped off in Nashville to log some playing time with the Cubs. Zapp joined the Atlanta Black Crackers line-up for the '47 season. In 1948, he'd sign on with Lorenzo “Piper” Davis' Birmingham Black Barons. Zapp took charge in left field alongside Willie Mays in center and Ed Steele in right. At season's end, they beat the Kansas City Monarchs to capture the Negro American League Pennant. In 1950, the Baltimore Elite Giants came calling for Jim. He signed on and remained with them through the '51 season. Jim spent most of the following three seasons in the minors before making one last appearance with the Birmingham Black Barons in 1954.

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- A Celebration of Historical Significance -



Their passion for our national pastime and aspirations on the segregated baselines of Negro Leagues Baseball laid the groundwork upon which Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier and persevered the long arduous integration process that followed. It is our mission to see that this worthy effort is rightfully honored, and their precious legacy preserved.

- So... Until we all may meet again on God's Heavenly Fields, Rest in Peace -