

# SPORTS

## Negro Leagues Honor 75th Anniversary

The achievements of the more than 2,600 black ballplayers who competed in baseball's Negro Leagues will be the focus of a three-day 75th Anniversary Celebration October 27 - 29 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Many of the nearly 300 surviving Negro Leagues players will be on hand for the "Soul of Baseball" celebration, organized by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. Home run King Henry Aaron, himself a former Negro Leaguer, will serve as Chairman of the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

"Serving as Chairman of the Negro Leagues' 75th Anniversary Celebration continues to illuminate the proud history of black baseball in America," Mr. Aaron said.

Seventy-five years ago Hall of Fame manager and player Andrew "Rube" Foster convened a meeting of independent black professional teams at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City. At this historic meeting the group formed the first successful black league -- the Negro National League.

Because of the notorious "gentlemen's agreement" that barred blacks from Major League competition, the Negro Leagues would, for more than a generation, provide the only opportunity for these men to play the game they loved. Major League Baseball's color barrier would not be broken until Jackie Robinson took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, located in the 18th & Vine Historical District in Kansas City, is dedicated to preserving and disseminating the history of black baseball in America. The Museum recreated the look, sounds and feel of the game during the heyday of black baseball.

Museum exhibits spotlight the achievements of many of the Negro Leagues' brightest stars, including Hall of Famers Leroy "Satchel"



John "Buck" O'Neil - 1948  
Manager, Kansas City Monarchs

Paige, James "Cool Papa" Bell, Josh Gibson, Roy Dandridge, Ernie Banks, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron and many others. Longtime Kansas City Monarchs player and manager John "Buck" O'Neil, star of Ken Burns' 10-part television series Baseball, serves as Chairman of the Board of the Museum.

The public is invited to participate in the 75th Anniversary activities. Planned anniversary events include museum tours, a reception and a gala dinner honoring the men of the Negro Leagues. For information on specific program activities and tickets, call 816-221-1920.

### Hall of Fame Roster

The Hall of Famers who played in both leagues were Henry Aaron, Ernie Banks, Roy Campanella, Monte Irvin, Willie Mays, Leroy "Satchel" Paige, and Jackie Robinson.

The Hall of Famers who played only in the Negro Leagues were James "Cool Papa" Bell, Oscar Charleston,

Ray Dandridge, Leon Day, Martin Dihigo, Andrew "Rube" Foster, Josh Gibson, William "Judy" Johnson, Walter "Buck" Leonard and John Henry "Pop" Lloyd

### A League Of Their Own

Highlights In Negro Leagues Baseball History

1867 - The "Gentlemen" Make An Agreement

The Civil War was scarcely over when the first black baseball teams squared off in Brooklyn in 1867. The Philadelphia Excelsiors triumphed over the Brooklyn Uniques in a contest billed as "the championship of colored clubs." That same year, a black Philadelphia team named the Pythians organized and was immediately rejected for admission into the national Association of Base Ball Players, America's first organized league and an ancestor of today's Major League Baseball. Thus began a "gentlemen's agreement" that would bar men of color from the game for the next 80 years.

The first professional black club was organized in 1885 when New Yorker Frank P. Thompson formed the Cuban Giants. The club was the class of black baseball in the early days and regularly triumphed over white professional teams. Other eminent black teams were formed, including the Philadelphia Orions, the Boston Resolutes and the St. Louis Black Stockings.

1901 - A New Generation Takes To The Diamond

At the turn of the century, legendary manager John McGraw attempted to break the color barrier by signing a light-complexioned black man, Charlie Grant, to a Baltimore Oriole contract. With a new alias of Charlie Tokohama, Grant passed as a Cherokee until discovered -- and subsequently banned -- by White Sox president Charlie Comiskey. This action gave birth to a new generation of independent black teams for the new century.

With the great migration of blacks from southern farms to northern factories, the booming cities of the north became hotbeds of black baseball. Chicago became a focal point, and baseball pioneer Andrew "Rube" Foster formed his Giant club in the Windy City. He billed his Leland Giants as "The greatest Aggregation of Colored Base Ball Players in the World," and his team's 1910 record - 123 wins, 6 losses - supports Rube's claim.

New teams were born in Indianapolis, Brooklyn, Darby, Pa. and Philadelphia, and top stars included fireballer "Smokey" Joe Williams, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd.

## THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

Harlem Globetrotters Schedule European Tour Versus Kareem Abdul-Jabbar And Team Of Former NBA Stars

The Harlem Globetrotters announced the team, in conjunction with ProServ Inc., -- the international sports marketing and management agency --, has scheduled a month-long tour of Europe where they will face basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and his team of former NBA stars. The first game of the tour will be Sept. 8 in Zurich, Switzerland, and the tour will conclude on Oct. 1 in London Arena.

Mannie Jackson, Harlem Globetrotters' Chairman and Owner, said, "We believe this series of games will entertain basketball fans throughout Europe. The games will be a combination of world-class competition and dazzling tricks and family fun our fans expect."

Jackson said while the Globetrotter team is a developmental team, meaning players on the squad have just one or two years experience with Harlem Globetrotters basketball, he thinks fans will be seeing something special.

Jackson said, "the players we are sending on this tour are our up and coming superstars. Players like seven-footer Maurice Barnett, Mario Green, Paul "Showtime" Gaffney, Reggie "Silky" Perkins, Tyron Randolph, Wun Versher, Trazel Sil-

vers, Rodney English -- Some of these players will be in Globetrotter uniforms for many years. Our fans will be able to say they were at these games when these players were just starting out."

Jackson also thinks the players on Abdul-Jabbar's team will enjoy the tour. "These player will have the opportunity to see how fans around the world react to the Harlem Globetrotters and to get the experience themselves of being Ambassadors of Goodwill. It will be an amazing experience for them to step out on the court and face the guys in the familiar red, white and blue uniforms." Abdul-Jabbar said, "I am excited to be playing with some former NBA athletes against the Harlem Globetrotters. It will be a unique challenge. I am sure I am going to enjoy competing against the greatest basketball show in the world. I am looking forward to putting on a great display of basketball skills."

The tour also represents a tremendous marketing opportunity for companies looking to utilize sports as a vehicle for penetrating the European market.

"This is an exciting concept, matching the remarkable world-wide recognition of the Globetrotters with the legendary status of the NBA's all-time leading scorer. We expect the tour to generate unprecedented fan and media interest throughout Europe, thus providing a great mar-

keting opportunity for sponsors," said Richard Adler, Vice President, New Business Development for ProServ.

Jackson said there are no immediate plans to take this tour to any other part of the world. "I'm a long-time fan of Kareem's and he's assembled a first-class group of stars. We have had a lot of interest from Africa and South American and Asian countries, but it has taken us two years to put this tour together. The people at ProServ did a tremendous job in coordinating this spectacular event."

The following is the current tour schedule. Dates will potentially be added to this schedule and will be announced as confirmed:

Date	City
Sept. 8	Zurich, Switzerland
Sept. 9	Halle, Germany
Sept. 12	Vienna, Austria
Sept. 14	Bratislava, Slovak Republic
Sept. 16	Prague, Czech Republic
Sept. 22	Oslo, Norway
Sept. 23	Wembley Arena, London, England
Sept. 29	Manchester, England
Sept. 30	Brussels, Belgium
Oct. 1	London Arena, London, England

The Harlem Globetrotters are the most popular family entertainment show in the world as they have performed for over 100 million people in 113 countries in the past 99 years.

## Asian Basketball Camp To Open

Space is still available to participate in a free basketball skills camp, specifically targeted for youth in the Asian community.

The camp is held from 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 14-18, at Gregory Heights Middle School in northeast Portland, sponsored by the Police Activi-

ties League, Asian Family Center and Urban League of Portland.

It's one of many activities the organizations have hosted this summer to keep kids away from gangs and other negative behavior and provide for a safe and livable community.

Local police officers, college interns, volunteers and staff from the social service agencies join together to conduct the activities.

The Asian Basketball Camp will close with a celebration barbecue and free throw shooting contest with Congressman Ron Wyden.

Officials said other PAL programs, including the PAL Bud Monnes Youth Center, will continue to run through Aug. 26.

For more information, contact Ray Mendoza in the PAL office, 823-0250 or stop by the office at 449 N.E. Emerson.

## TEAM OREGON BRINGS HOME GOLD

The 55-member Oregon delegation of Special Olympic athletes has brought home several gold, silver and bronze medals in both team and individual competition from the International World Summer Games, held in New Haven, Connecticut July 1-9.

Billed as the largest sporting event in 1995, the World Games drew more than 7,200 athletes with mental retardation from 140 countries around the world.

For the first time in its nine-year history, the Games featured the sport of marathon (26.3 miles) running. Two Oregon runners, Art Pease of Milton-Freewater and Ron Poland of Winston, competed in the marathon.

Pease had the sixth fastest time overall of the 25 competitors, running an average of 7 minutes 50

seconds per mile (3:26 total). Poland shaved more than 30 minutes off his personal best time, winning a gold medal in his division.

Other gold medalists include: Keith Beach, Roseburg (equestrian); Tammy Richards, Lake Oswego (equestrian); Meagan Paxton, Gladstone (gymnastics); Rhonda Mathena, Portland (gymnastics); Charla Carney, Grants Pass (powerlifting); Measha Porter, Astoria (powerlifting); Chirs Harlan, Klamath Falls (rollerskating); Andy Reisbick, Estacada (rollerskating); Christina Daffern, Milwaukie (rollerskating); Rhett Beutler, Milton-Freewater (shotput); Cherie Reber, Roseburg (400M dash); Jamie Krumholz, Eugene (softball throw); Aaron Hastings, Albany (400M dash) and Kavin Isham, McMinnville (400M dash).

## 1995 SPECIAL OLYMPICS STATE-WIDE SUMMER SPORTS TOURNAMENT

The Medford area will play host to a state-wide summer sports tournament for Oregon Special Olympics, set for Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20.

Team softball, T-ball, Unified softball, individual skills softball, three levels of golf and Unified golf will be featured in the two day event which will draw more than 1,000 athletes and 250 coaches from around the state.

Unified sports are those in-

volving team members with and without mental retardation working together in competition. This year, Unified golf will be offered for the first time.

Major sponsors for the event include Darigold, Oroweat, the Medford School district, Veterans Affairs Domiciliary and Sports marketing NW.

For more information, call Kim Cusack, Sports Management Director, at 1-800-452-6079.

### 3-Hour Cruise on The Portland Spirit

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Join us on Sunday, September 24th, 1995  
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285-3919

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2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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