

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

December, 2011

## In the News

### *Sam Hairston goes into the Hall*

#### The Colorado Sky Sox honor Hairston

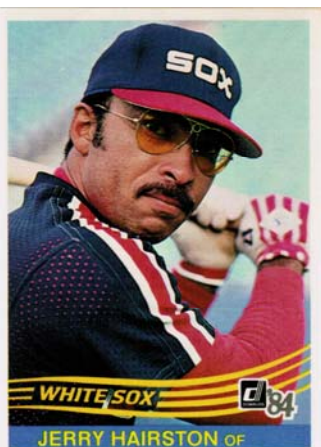
**O**n October 25, the Colorado Springs Sky Sox posthumously inducted Sam

Hairston into the **Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame**. Hairston played for the Sky Sox of the old Western League between 1950 and 1956. His legacy to integrate the national game was recognized.



Hairston was called up from Colorado Springs in 1951, making him the first African-American player in Chicago White Sox history. Hairston was the **Western League MVP** in 1953, hitting .310 with eight home runs and 102 RBIs, while leading the Sky Sox to the league title. In 1955, he won the League batting title with a .350 average, adding six home runs and 91 RBIs.

Hairston retired in 1960 from active play and spent the rest of his career as a scout and coach with the parent White Sox organization.

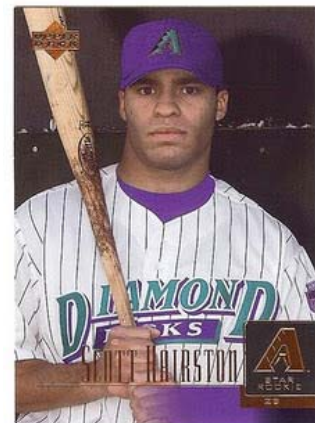


The 1993 inductee to the **Sky Sox Hall of Fame**, died in 1997, leaving as the patriarch of a three-generation big-league family. Two of Hairston's three sons, **Jerry Senior** and **Sam Junior**, signed **White Sox** contracts. It might have been three, but the **Chicago Cubs** drafted **John Hairston** in 1965.

When John made it to the Cubs for three games in 1969, the Hairstons became the first African-American father-son combo in the Majors.

Soon after, in 1973, **Jerry Hairston, Sr.**, made his debut with the White Sox. The legacy continued when Jerry's sons **Scott** and **Jerry Junior** joined the Arizona Diamondbacks (2004) and the Baltimore Orioles (1998), becoming the **fourth** & **fifth** of the Mississippi Delta-based family to play in The Show.

The Hairston legacy began, when **Samuel Harding Hairston** was born on January 20, 1920, in Lowndes County, near Crawford, Mississippi in the Plum Grove community, where a ball field was named in his honor in 2010. Two years later, the Hairston family moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where Sam later joined the **American Cast Iron Pipe Company (ACIPCO)** baseball team, which employed his father, Will. This powerhouse team included such stars as **Piper Davis** and **Artie Wilson**.



Big Sam joined the Black Barons in 1944 as a third baseman, and later played for the Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns for six seasons, mainly as a catcher. The highlight of his Negro League career came in 1950, when he won the **Triple Crown** in the Negro American League (NAL). Slamming Sam compiled a .424 batting average, hit 17 homers and drove in 71 runs in only 70 games.

The leading vote-getter for the 1950 East-West All-Star game was immediately signed by **John Donaldson**, the first African American scout for the Chicago White Sox, making Hairston ineligible for the classic. Sam's early departure from the league, allowed Chicago American Giants infielder **Jesse Douglas** to be named the NAL's Most Valuable Player, despite Sam's league leading stats.

Congratulations to the Hairston family on another deserving honor and tribute!

## Your Daily All-Star Team:

- Monday's Child is fair of face.



- Tuesday's child is full of grace.
- Wednesday's child is full of woe.
- Thursday's child has far to go.**
- Friday's child is loving and giving.
- Saturday's child works hard for a living.
- But the child who is

born on the Sabbath Day is bonny and blithe and good and gay.

Top 12 Negro Leaguers born on **Thursday:**

**c, Josh Gibson - HOFer**

**c, Louis Santop - HOFer**

p, Walter Ball

p, David Barnhill

p, Frank Wickware

1b, George Scales

2b, Sammy T. Hughes

**3b, Judy Johnson - HOFer**

ss, Artie Wilson

**lf, Larry Doby - HOFer**

cf, George Sweatt

**rf, Cristobal Torriente - HOFer**

*Can you pick a better team?*



## Rochester Park is Renamed!

On September 17, Rochester Park at 3000 Municipal Street in Dallas was renamed

**William Blair, Jr., Park.**

The former Negro League pitcher and founder of *The Elite News*

is a well known activist in the Dallas area.

Blair established the city's first parade to honor

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in

1986



The World War II veteran pitched for the Detroit Stars and the Cincinnati Clowns from 1946 to 1951.

Currently, the 90 year old serves as a board member for the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Urban League, African-American Museum, and the Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance. The dedication ceremony was attended by Mayor Mike Rawlings and other City Council members.

## Harold Gould Honored

On November 11, the Centerton Country Club in the Pittsgrove Township of Salem



County, New Jersey honored the former Negro League right-handed pitcher. Harold Gould was inducted into the **New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame.**

Their hometown hero pitched two seasons (1947-48) for the Philadelphia Stars. He later played in Canada under the name

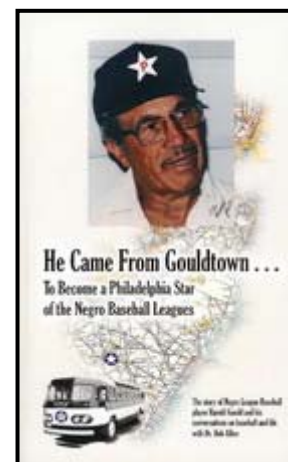
**Lawrence Morgan.**

In 1950, he was into drafted the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean War. He later worked for the Bridgeton Broad of Education, the Cumberland County Broad of Vocational Education and the State Department of Institutions and Agencies. He also worked with former prison inmates as vocational education director in the New Jersey penal system.

Gould's recent induction follows the 2001 honor at the **South Jersey Hall of Fame** and earlier, in 1994, his induction to the **New Jersey Hall of Fame.** Additionally, in 1999, he was named one of Cumberland County's **"People of the Century"**.

An everlasting tribute came in 2009, when he published his autobiography titled **"He Came from Gouldtown."**

Congratulations to Harold and Gwendolyn Gould for this deserving honor.



## Negro Leaguers who went directly into the Major Leagues.

1. Dan Bankhead, 1947
2. Ernie Banks, 1953
3. Willard Brown, 1947
4. Larry Doby, 1947
5. Satchel Paige, 1948
6. Hank Thompson, 1947



Bankhead.

# Call for Papers

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

July 19-21, 2012  
Cleveland, OH

### Theme: “Black Baseball in Ohio”



Black baseball has a strong history in Ohio and especially the city of Cleveland. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century one of the first African American players in the Majors, **Moses Fleetwood Walker**, played in Toledo, and with the 1885 **Cleveland Whites** of the Western League. The city of Cleveland had more Negro League entries (11) than any other city in the Negro Leagues from the 1920s through the 1940s. The crowning success came with the 1945 Cleveland Buckeyes winning the Negro League World Series. Their roster included such key players as **Quincy Troupe**, **Sam Jethroe**, **Eugene Bremer** and **Archie Ware**. In 1946 the Buckeyes added **Eddie Klep** to their squad, making him one of the first white players on a Negro League team. The Cleveland Indians boasted the first African American player in the AL with the signing of **Larry Doby**. They later added the legendary **Satchel Paige** to their roster.

The **15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JERRY MALLOY NEGRO LEAGUE CONFERENCE** will celebrate Ohio’s baseball history. In addition to two days of research presentations and player/author panels, attendees will also enjoy a special presentation about League Park and a game between the **Cleveland Indians** and **Minnesota Twins**.

### Presentation Proposals: due March 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

This interdisciplinary conference welcomes proposals for oral and poster presentations from all research fields. Previous presenters have included college faculty, public school teachers, graduate students, and independent scholars.

Presentations may focus on any topic related to the theme, black baseball in the Midwest, or other Negro Leagues issues. Some possibilities include: Ohio teams and players (including town clubs, early semi-pro teams, and professional teams), the Cleveland Buckeyes championship season, Ohio ballparks, **Cleveland Call and Post** sports writing, baseball as part of Ohio’s black communities, Moses Fleetwood Walker, barnstorming, or anything else that captures your interest.

Proposals should include a 250-word abstract, plus a brief biographical note with contact information. For oral presentations, please indicate whether you will require any AV equipment. For poster presentations, please indicate the number and size of posters you wish to display.

Please email your proposal as a Word attachment to [lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:lheaphy@kent.edu).

Or, send it by mail to Leslie Heaphy, Kent State University at Stark 6000 Frank Rd, No. Canton, OH 44720 .

### Notifications will go out by Jackie Robinson Day—April 15.

For further conference registration: <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy-negro-leagues-conference/>

We welcome Conference donations in any amount at: [Malloy Conference Donation](#)

For conference updates visit: <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy-negro-leagues-conference/>

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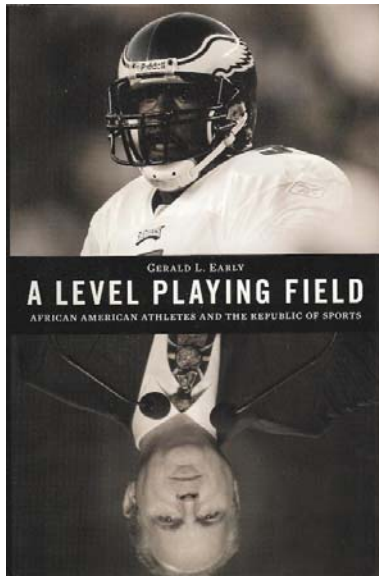
## Dugout Reading . . . . .

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### **A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports** by **Gerald L. Early**.

As Americans, we believe there ought to be a level playing field for everyone. Even if we don't expect to finish first, we do expect a fair start. Only in sports have African Americans actually found that exclusive level ground. But at the same time, black players offer an ironic perspective on the athlete-hero, for they represent a group historically held to be without social honor.



Gerald Early, noted cultural critic, avid baseball fan, and historian investigates these contradictions as they play out in the sports world and in our deeper attitudes toward the athletes we glorify. Dr. Early, a Professor of English, African and African-American Studies, and American Cultural Studies at **Washington University** in St. Louis, addresses some of the early-day heated cultural issues in chapter two; **“Curt Flood, Gratitude and the Image of Baseball,” “American Integration, Black Heroism and the Meaning of Jackie Robinson,”** and **“Where Have You Gone, Mr. Robinson?”**

My favorite is a non-baseball article, **“Donovan McNabb, Rush Limbaugh and the Making of the Black Quarterback,”** an exhilarating read.

The essays in this book circle around two perennial questions: What other, invisible contests unfold when we watch a sporting event? What desires and anxieties are encoded in our worship of (or disdain for) high-performance athletes.

**“A Level Playing Field”** is a must-have book in any sports library, barbershop, or sports bar. Get your copy from the Harvard University Press: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?recid=31107>

## Research Requests

### BOOK PROJECTS CATALOGUED.

At the suggestion of newsletter editor Ron Kaplan, **SABR’s Bibliography Committee** is beginning an effort to catalog all book projects which are being done by SABR members. Notices could cover anything from a book which is on the cusp of publication to, at the other end of the spectrum, a book where a substantial amount of research has been done. They will run 100-word synopses of the projects in this newsletter and keep a catalog of what they have received. Authors can update the information when they get a publisher and when a publication date is set. This should give authors some nice advance publicity and create an archive members can use to find others working on similar material. Please send all submissions to [agmccue44@earthlink.net](mailto:agmccue44@earthlink.net) AND [RonK232@comcast.net](mailto:RonK232@comcast.net)!

### HOMESTEAD GRAYS BOX SCORES WANTED

The Negro League's research team has come across several references to the Homestead Grays playing as a semi-pro team in the 1920s. The newspapers reported that they played upwards to 160 games a year, sometimes winning 85% of their contests.

We are looking for researchers to find game accounts of this early-day Grays team before they became a dynasty in the late 30s and 1940s, featuring the likes of **Ray Brown, Buck Leonard** and **Josh Gibson**. Questions and Information found can be sent to: **Wayne Stivers** at [satchelpaige-hof@comcast.net](mailto:satchelpaige-hof@comcast.net)

### FIRST GAME BETWEEN ALL-BLACK TEAMS?

**John Zinn** found the following clip in the October 24, 1855 issue of the *Newark Daily Mercury*:

*"BASE BALL - A match game of Base Ball was played between the St. John's and Union Clubs (colored) yesterday afternoon. Two innings were played when it commenced to rain. The St. John's Club made ten runs and the Union Club only two. The game is to be played again on Friday at 2 o'clock, on the ground of the St. John's Club, foot of Chestnut Street."*

There was no account of the replay in either the *Daily Mercury* or the *Newark Daily Advertiser*. Any accounts of this game can be sent to: [LarryLester42@gmail.com](mailto:LarryLester42@gmail.com) & [jzinn84@comcast.net](mailto:jzinn84@comcast.net)

## Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A **BIRTHDAY CARD**.

### DECEMBER

- 2<sup>ND</sup> - **HENRY ELMORE - 70**
- 3<sup>RD</sup> - BILL HAYDEN - 87
- 4<sup>TH</sup> - TED TOLES - 86
- 6<sup>TH</sup> - BILL LITTLE - 77
- 7<sup>TH</sup> - ENRIQUE MAROTO - 79
- 9<sup>TH</sup> - QUACK BROWN - 81
- 14<sup>TH</sup> - HENRY SAVERSON - 82
- 16<sup>TH</sup> - **FRANK EVANS - 90**, JOE MARBURY - 73
- 20<sup>TH</sup> - MAL DUCKETT - 89
- 21<sup>ST</sup> - **CHARLES WELLS - 80**, **PAUL CASANOVA - 70**
- 23<sup>RD</sup> - MAYNARD JORDAN - 83
- 25<sup>TH</sup> - JOHN MITCHELL - 74
- 26<sup>TH</sup> - ORLANDO O'FARRILL - 89
- 27<sup>TH</sup> - JIM COBBIN - 77

### JANUARY

- 8<sup>TH</sup> - DAVEY WHITNEY - 82
- 9<sup>TH</sup> - FRANK MARSH - 81
- 21<sup>ST</sup> - PORTER REED - 89, JIM ROBINSON - 82
- 26<sup>TH</sup> - RON TEASLEY - 85
- 27<sup>TH</sup> - SAM TAYLOR - 83
- 28<sup>TH</sup> - TOMMY TAYLOR - 74
- 30<sup>TH</sup> - LONNIE HARRIS - 81
- 31<sup>ST</sup> - ERNIE BANKS - 81



### FEBRUARY

- 4<sup>TH</sup> - ERNIE NIMMONS - 82
- 5<sup>TH</sup> - HANK AARON - 78
- 9<sup>TH</sup> - MIKE HOULEMARD - 79
- 12<sup>TH</sup> - BILL DUMPSON - 82
- 20<sup>TH</sup> - WALTER MCCOY - 89
- 23<sup>RD</sup> - WILLIE SHEELOR - 84
- 25<sup>TH</sup> - **MONTE IRVIN - 93**
- 26<sup>TH</sup> - MICKEY STUBBLEFIELD - 86

NOTE: Congratulations to Nonagenarians: **MONTE IRVIN & FRANK EVANS**.

**\$\$\$** When you RENEW your SABR membership for 2012, please consider earmarking extra funds for the **JERRY MALLOY NEGRO LEAGUE CONFERENCE and/or Jeremy Krock's HEADSTONE RESTORATION PROJECT** for unmarked graves.

Go to: [Grave Marker Project](#) and enter your tax-deductible gift, along with a brief description for allocation of your funds.

We also welcome donations in any amount to support our efforts in providing scholarships, library grants and honoring black baseball history. **\$\$\$**

## Sunsets . . . .

**JOSEPH CLIFFORD "RABBIT" CAFFIE, 80**, died August 1, 2011, at his home in Warren, Ohio. The Ramer, Alabama native made his major league debut with the Cleveland Indians in 1956. The outfielder played two seasons with the Indians batting .291 in 44 games and 139 at bats. In 1957, with the Buffalo Bisons, he was the International League batting champion, hitting .330. After his baseball career, Caffie worked 37 years at Thomas Steel Strip in Warren.



**WILLIE "CURLEY" WILLIAMS, 86**, died August 23, 2011, at Sarasota Hospice House in Sarasota,



Florida. Williams was a shortstop from 1945 to 1954 with the Newark Eagles, Houston Eagles, New Orleans Eagles, and Birmingham Black Barons. He was a member of the 1950 West team in the East-West All-Star game. Upon retirement from baseball, he worked 27 years as a crime scene investigator for the coroner's office in Sarasota.

**WILLIAM WALKER "BILL, READY" CASH, 91**, died September 12, 2011, at Roxborough Memorial Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. One of the games outstanding catchers, Cash started his pro career with the Philadelphia Stars in 1943, hitting over .300 in his rookie season. He played for the Stars until 1950, was selected to the East-West All-Star squads in 1948 (twice) and 1949, getting two hits in seven at bats. Cash also starred in the Mexican, Canadian, Dominic Republican and Venezuelan Leagues.



**GEORGE E. "SONNY" SMITH, 84** died October 1, 2011, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Smith was an outfielder for the Chicago American Giants and the Harlem Globetrotters baseball team from 1948 to 1952. Smith also performed and starred in the magic circle for the hardwood Globetrotters. He attended the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference this past summer in Indianapolis at the J.W. Marriott.

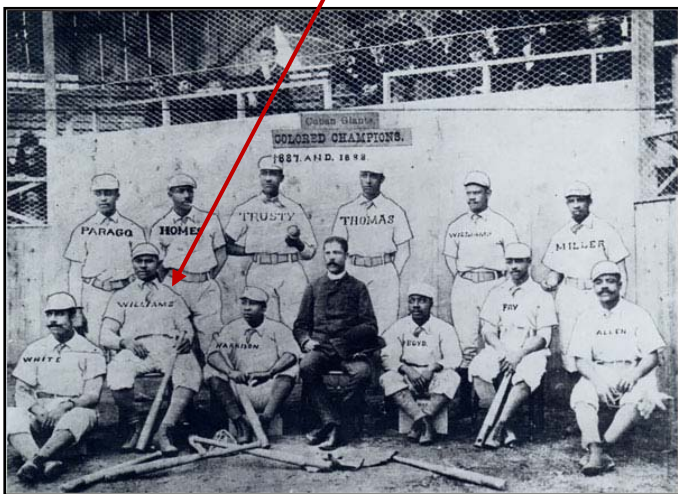
## Plaque Dedication for fallen Philadelphia Police Detective: George L. Williams

Recently on June 29, in Philadelphia, outside 16<sup>th</sup> and South Street, a Police Hero Plaque was unveiled honoring **Detective George L. Williams**, who was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday, January 9, 1918.

The Plaque for Detective Williams was the 98<sup>th</sup> tribute to a fallen Philadelphian officer, and the sixth dedication in 2011. He was 44 years old, and a 12-year veteran of the force. Williams was survived by his wife and five children.

Detective Williams was shot and killed in a gun battle with five men outside a saloon at the above location. He was the first African American detective in Philly's Police Department.

One of the original members recruited by Frank P. Thompson to play on the **Cuban Giants** at Argyle Hotel in Babylon, New York, Williams played second base, first base and third base.



His career from 1885 to 1902 also included assignments with the **New York Gorhams**, **Philadelphia Giants**, **Colored Monarchs**, and the **Cuban X-Giants**. As a member of the Cuban Giants, they were crowned the colored champions in 1887 and 1888.

Local sponsorship of the George Williams' plaque included the **Buffalo Soldiers** organization, and historian **Frank Carelli**.



## Congressional Gold Medal Honor

The U.S. Senate recently joined the House of Representatives in approving the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, our Nation's highest civilian honor, to the **Montford Point Marines**. More than 19,000 African Americans trained at Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Today, about 120 of these men are living. One of these men saw combat action on **Iwo Jima** is former Negro League, and Major League pitcher, **Rev. Bill Greason**.

**U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus**, of Alabama's 6th Congressional District, is working on the timing to present this significant award to Rev. Greason. Other players **Dan Bankhead** and **William McNeely** were also Montford Point Marines but with reported duty assignments stateside.

Information provided by Bryan Steverson.

## Opportunities . . . .

### Two \$2,500 scholarships for the best Essay

If you are a High School Senior go to: <http://www.larrylester42.com/assets/Images/Events/2012-scholarship.pdf> and download your application for the 1,000 word essay writing contest.

The deadline is **February 22, 2012**, so hurry!

### Two \$1,000 Library Grants available.

Go to: <http://www.larrylester42.com/assets/Images/Events/2012-Library-Grant.pdf> and download your application. The deadline is **March 19, 2012**.

## SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

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*The Courier* is a quarterly newsletter published by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR); in March, June, September and December. Inquiries, submissions and research requests can be sent to Larry Lester.

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