

# Negro League All-Star Team Picked

Turn on the time machine and set it for August 1943 at Chicago's Comiskey Park, and get ready for a crowd like no other in baseball during that era. It's the East-West All-Star Classic, and the greats of Negro League baseball are playing before 51,523 of every racial background.

That's a bigger crowd than Major League Baseball drew for most of its all-star games, and for 17 years the classic was a much-anticipated sports event that brought fans of all races together in a holiday spirit for the one thing they loved most — great baseball.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has recently concluded the first of its annual players' polls to determine their opinion of the significance of players, teams and events in the NLB history. Because the East-West All-Star Classic was the highlight of the NLB season, the NLBM's inaugural poll asked former NLB players and sportswriters to select their all-time all-star teams. Over 200 former players and sportswriters were asked to step back in time and select their favorites.

The survey has a personal touch because a lot of the players said they only voted for those they actually played with or against, so it provides insight based on experience.

Here are the all-time all-star players for two teams.

### First Team

**Pitchers:** Leroy "Satchel" Page of the Kansas City Monarchs, Pittsburgh Crawfords and Birmingham Black Barons, renowned for his blazing fastball and elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

Leon Day, considered just a step behind Paige, and Hilton Smith considered by some the equal of Paige.

**Catcher:** Josh Gibson, Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords, considered by many to be the most awesome hitter ever to play

baseball. Hall of Fame inductee in 1972.

**First Base:** Buck Leonard, Homestead Grays, who was Gehrig to Gibson's Ruth (or better yet, Hank Aaron). Leonard was considered the greatest first baseman in black baseball. Hall of Fame, 1972.

**Second Base:** Lorenzo "Piper" Davis, player and later manager for the Birmingham Black Brons.

**Third Base:** Ray Dandridge, Newark Eagles, the top third baseman in black baseball for most of his 16-year career. He was the most recent Negro League inductee into the Hall of Fame in 1987.

**Shortstop:** Willie "The Devil" Wells, Newark Eagles and St. Louis Stars player and manager, who tied Josh Gibson as 1942 Negro National League batting champ well after first reigning as champ in 1930.

**Outfield:** James "Cool Papa" Bell, Pittsburgh Crawfords and Homestead Grays, legendary as the best base stealer in the Negro Leagues. Elected to Hall of Fame in 1974.

Oscar Charleston, Indianapolis ABCs and Pittsburgh Crawfords, a player-manager who for 20 years was without peer as a hitter and fielder. Many who know the Negro Leagues would say he was the greatest player they saw. Hall of Fame, 1976.

"Turkey" Stearnes, Chicago American Giants, a Negro League batting champ in 1935.

**Manager:** John "Buck" O'Neil, Kansas City Monarchs, 1946 Negro American League batting champ, who sent three dozen former Negro League stars into Major League Baseball and was the first black coach (Chicago Cubs).

### Second Team

**Pitchers:** Ray Brown, Homestead Grays, considered the ace of the renowned Washington, D.C.

team.

"Smokey" Joe Williams, Homestead Grays and Brooklyn Royal Giants, voted the greatest black pitcher of all time in a poll of black baseball figures in 1952, is said to have had a fastball that seemed to come off a mountain top.

Wilber "Bullet Joe" Rogan, Kansas City Monarchs, with a curve ball and a palm ball that matched his fastball to keep the batters guessing.

**Catcher:** "Biz" Mackey, Baltimore Elite Giants and Newark Eagles player-manager, considered the best defensive catcher in the Negro Leagues. He was a mentor of Roy Campanella.

**First Base:** Mule Suttles, Chicago American Giants and St. Louis Stars, known for a tremendous home-run kick. He was 1029 batting champion.

**Second Base:** Newt Allen, Kansas City Monarchs, whose career stretched from 1918 to 1950.

**Third Base:** William Julius "Judy" Johnson, Hilldale Club (Philadelphia), Elected to the Hall of Fame in 1975.

**Shortstop:** Artie Wilson, Birmingham Black Barons, Negro American League batting champ in 1948.

**Outfield:** Willard Brown, Kansas City Monarchs, a power hitter who held the Negro American League batting title from 1937-39.

Sam Jethrow, Cleveland Buckeyes, Negro American League batting champion in 1944-45.

Martin Dihigo, New York Cubans, a great Havana-born star who like Oscar Charleston sometimes played all nine positions during a game to demonstrate his remarkable versatility. In 1977 he was elected to the Hall of Fame.

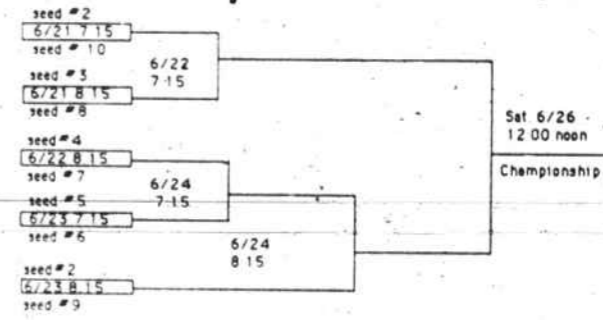
**Manager:** "Candy Jim" Taylor, Detroit Stars.

Will one of these stars be the next inductee at the Baseball Hall of Fame?

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## BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Seed	Team Name	Won	Lost
1	Suns	8	1
2	Blazers	8	1
3	Round Ballers	6	3
4	Too-Much	5	4
5	DRT	4	5
6	Lentz Mob	3	6
7	Players	3	6
8	Lee A/B	3	6
9	Lee C/D	3	6
10	Spurs	0	9



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