

FEATURES

Negro Baseball League Members Celebrate History

BY DOUGLAS B. CLARK
Staff Writer

Henry "Frazier" Robinson, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants in the mid 1930s and early 1940s, visited Winston-Salem with Latif Majied, owner of America's Best Classic last semester. Their visit was part of a promotional campaign called Salute to the Negro Leagues Night at the Ballpark, which was sponsored by Winston-Salem State University and the Winston-Salem Warthogs baseball team.

In a 1902 exhibition game, Andrew "Rube" Foster, considered the best black pitcher of his time, earned his nickname by out-pitching the white star Rudy Wadell. "It was very common for us to play 2 or 3 games a day in the same uniforms," said Henry "Frazier" Robinson, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants in the mid 30's and early 40's.

In 1919, Andrew Foster began forming the Negro National Baseball League in Chicago. Foster wanted blacks to have their own black baseball heroes. "I wanted to create a profession that would equal the earning capacity of professions and keep colored baseball from the control of whites and do something concrete for the loyalty of the

race," said Foster.

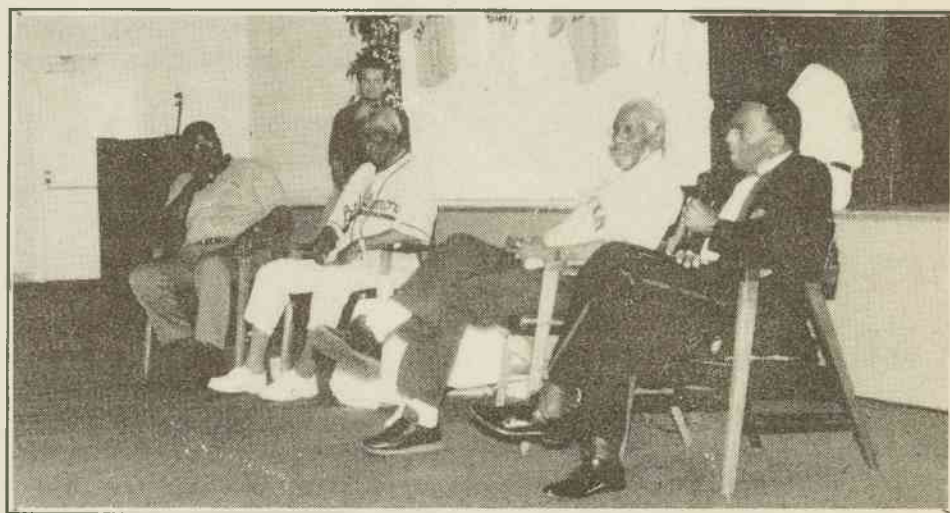
From 1920 to 1955, the Negro Baseball Leagues provided great pride and joy to blacks everywhere in America. There were numerous teams representing many American cities during 35-year history of the Negro League. The Kansas City Monarchs, Philadelphia Stars, Homestead Grays, Baltimore Elite Giants, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Memphis Red Sox, Birmingham Black Barons, Detroit Stars, New York Black Yankees, Chicago American Gains and the House of David were the names of just a few of the teams.

White businessmen saw the success and big profits that could be made from black baseball, and formed a rival league, the Eastern Colored League.

The teams were: the Philadelphia Hilldales, Cuba Stars, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Baltimore Black Sox and the New York Lincoln Gains.

The first Negro World Series, was in 1924 between the Kansas City Monarchs of the National League, and the Philadelphia Hilldales representing the Eastern League. Jose Melendez, a black Cuban, was the MVP-who helped his team (K.C Monarchs) win the World Series.

Today the sport of baseball is much different from the Old Negro Baseball



Negro National Baseball League Old Timers

Leagues. Although the love of the game is still present, attitudes have changed. It seems as though the players think it is more important to think of profitability than loyalty to their hometown fans.

When African-American began playing baseball in 1859, there was a ban that forbid blacks from playing in the white Major League. The National Association of Baseball Players (NABBP), upheld this ban in 1859. The National Association of Professional Baseball Players, which replaced the

NABBP in 1871 also upheld the ban. Not only were blacks not allowed to play the sport; but in some parts of the United States, they were also not allowed to go see baseball games in the stadiums. Young black children would play or even pretend to play baseball in their neighborhoods with hardly anything for equipment.

If you would like more information about the Negro Baseball League, you can contact: Latif Majied, c/o American's Best Classics, P. O. Box 45970 Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Dalton-Rann Is Chancellor's Administrative Assistant

BY MONICA ALEXANDER
Staff Writer

A rushed Afro-centric woman comes scurrying by me as I waited to speak with her. With a pleasant voice and a smile she said, "in a minute, I'll be all yours." This new administrative assistant has been very busy since her arrival at Winston-Salem State University last July.

Ravonda Dalton-Rann, the new assistant to Chancellor Alvin J. Schexnider; is not a new face on campus. During spring semesters 1995 and 1996, she taught two classes in the Social Science Department. One semester she taught *Race and Culture* and the other semester she taught *Marriage and Family*.

Dalton-Rann enjoys her new position, yet she misses teaching. "Teaching is a joy. I love to read the students papers and

hear their input," she said. She hopes that she has given students another way to look at things and have made them "think critically about the world."

Prior to coming to WSSU to teach, she was the assistant director of admissions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "I was on the road recruiting students for UNCG at high schools and churches. I delivered speeches and arranged campus tours and visitation days," she said.

She has always had jobs in the education field. Previously, she was the director of the Crosby Scholar Program, which is a college access program.

According to Dalton-Rann, "This program guarantees every child in the Forsyth county a college education. All students have to do is to submit an application, a drug screening, and attend Saturday academy, a program of

workshops to enhance their ability to be successful.

Here at WSSU, she has several responsibilities. She assists with the day to day activities of the university, goes to numerous meetings, fills in for the chancellor at meetings that he is unable to attend, serves on the senior administration team, and the head of staff of the chancellor's office to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Having all these duties does not discourage Dalton-Rann, for she feels that she is "fulfilling a purpose in this position and I will fulfill my task to reflect positively. Every minute of the day you fulfill a purpose and I hope to do it excellently and near perfect as possible, I hate flaws." Her pet peeve for perfection is evident by looking at her office for there are no papers scattered all over the place, everything has a nice neat place.

Even the papers that are left on the desk are in separate neat piles so that she is able to locate things when needed.

Goals that Dalton-Rann would like to accomplish are "to serve the chancellor and the university to the best of my abilities even if it means working around the clock that is what I'll do," and "after mastering this job I would like to return to teaching because I enjoys working with students." said Mrs. Dalton-Rann.

Dalton-Rann received her bachelors in English and her two masters, one in education and the other in human development family relations from University of North Carolina at Greensboro.