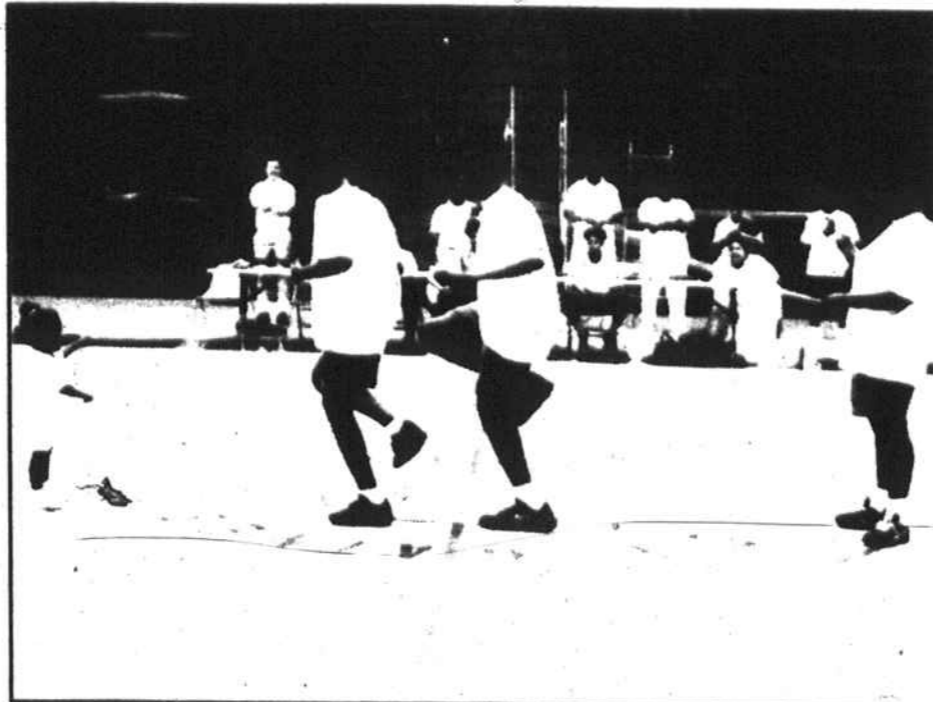


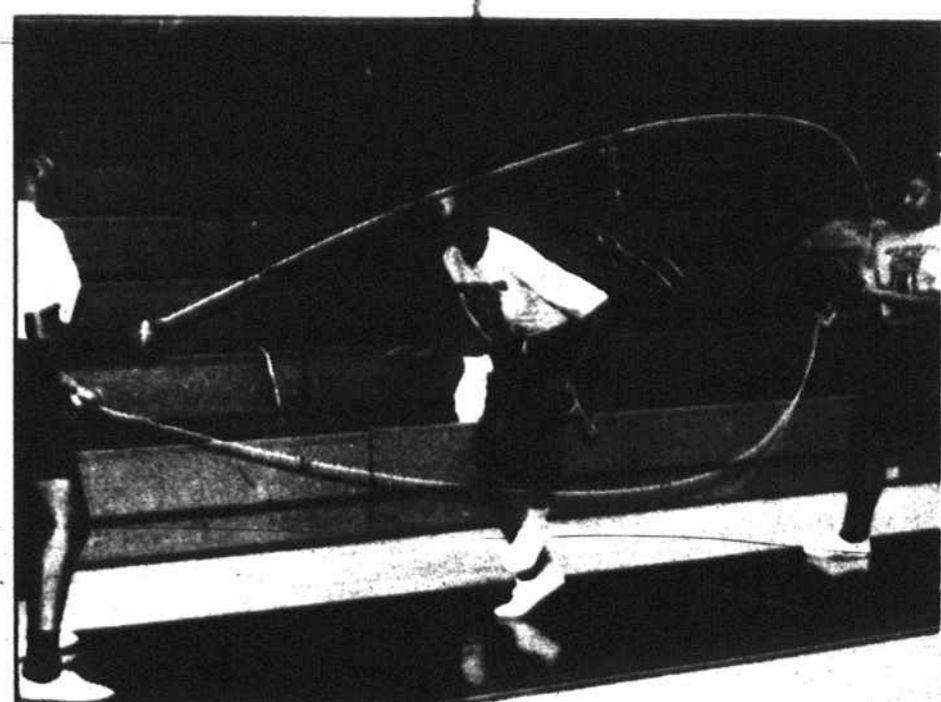
Double Dutch Finals



Yasman Peebles, Nichole Brown, Turania Florence and George Harrison of Baby 1-2-3 at Carl Russell Recreation Center.



Baby 1-2-3 and Baby Jumping in the opening ceremony of the state Double Dutch Competition.



The Devilous Three of Salvation Army Girls' Club: Tiffany Malloy, Shereka Clark and Paula Boozer.

Baseball Fans across the Country Will Vote for Hall of Fame Picks

Baseball fans across the country will soon get to view classic photos and memorabilia from Negro Leagues Baseball and vote their choice for the next NLB star to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown.

It's part of a traveling exhibit called "Discover Greatness! An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball" assembled by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City from its extensive archives.

The exhibit had its rookie outing June 5 as the museum moved into new storefront space on the corner of Kansas City's historic 18th & Vine streets, where the great stars of black baseball and jazz socialized together. The site also is near where the Negro National League was founded in 1920.

In the exhibit, which moves to Baltimore in July for the All-Star Game, are 90 black-and-white photos, 10 oversized prints, and memorabilia such as pennants, uniforms and game day posters. They depict the exceptional teams and players of the Negro Leagues.

There is also a Hall of Fame "locker" display featuring the 11

Negro Leaguers enshrined at Cooperstown.

"A 12 locker has no name on it, and fans will be asked to vote for the player they'd most like named to the Hall of Fame next," explained Larry Lester, director of Research for the Museum.

In addition to the Hall of Fame lockers, the exhibit has five other sections, each depicting an aspect of the determination and devotion of the strong-willed, dedicated men who refused to accept the notion they were unfit to share in the joys of the national pastime.

— Pre-1900: The Beginnings of Black Baseball. A "gentlemen's agreement" between owners bars blacks from the first professional league and its successor, the National League. The first black professional teams were formed.

— 1920-31: A League of Their Own. The Negro National League is formed in Kansas City in 1920 by Rube Foster. The Roaring Twenties see continued growth and a new Eastern Colored League, and many new teams like the Baltimore Black Sox, the Detroit Stars, the Cuban Stars, and the Kansas City Monarchs. The first colored World Series is held in 1924.

— 1932-46: Heyday. Black baseball survives and thrives during the Great Depression, and afterward new leagues and teams are formed. The annual East-West All-Star Classic begins in 1933.

— 1947: The Color Barrier Falls. When Jackie Robinson joins the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, the color line begins to crumble. New black stars join Major League baseball and make an instant impact. Twelve years later the last major league team integrates.

The exhibit is very educational for those who know little about the contribution of the Negro Leagues to baseball and to the African-American society during the days of segregated sports. For those who remember the great Negro Leagues, it will bring back memories of many great stars teams and games.

One of the missions of the museum is education, to keep the Negro Leagues alive in spirit, and to let young people feel pride in what the players and teams accomplished under often very difficult circumstances.

For information, contact Smith Kramer Inc., Kansas City, Mo. (800) 222-7522.



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Kid's Sports Thoughts



"I'll throw the ball when I'm through winding up."



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