

Negro Baseball Museum Finds Major Artifact

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has discovered the existence of the original Articles of Incorporation of the Negro National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, a document previously believed lost.

The document was located recently by Larry Lester, director of research for the museum, who found it in the Illinois State Archives. Announcement of the find was made as the museum moved into a new storefront location in the historic 18th & Vine District on an interim basis until completion of a permanent facility.

"Although it has been known

that the NNL was organized at a meeting in Kansas City on February 13, 1920, no actual evidence of its incorporation had ever been found," said Lester. "The key to its discovery was checking file systems for all variations of the official corporate name, which was thought to have been the National Association of Colored Professional Baseball Clubs and the Negro National League.

"The Articles of Incorporation provided new insights into the history of the NNL," said Lester.

"For example, the league was not incorporated until November 18, 1924, and it was in Chicago, Ill.,

the hometown of league founder Andrew "Rube" Foster.

The league's original incorporators were Foster, Willie Foster, J. L. Wilkinson, Russell Thompson and Walter Farmer. Willie Foster was Rube Foster's 20-year-old brother and originally held a 40 percent majority of the stock. Rube Foster and Wilkinson, owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, each held 20 percent. Businessmen Thompson and Farmer held 15 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

It was not until Sept. 21, 1925, when the league was reorganized, that the well known Negro Leagues club owners came on board as

stockholders," said Lester.

Major League Baseball's Records Committee currently recognizes only six leagues as organized institutions in baseball, he noted. They are today's American and National Leagues; the American Association, which spanned 10 years; and the Union Association, the Player's League, and the Federal League, each of which lasted less than three years, Lester noted. Though not officially recognized by Major League Baseball, the Negro National League lasted 12 years, disbanding in 1932. The league was reorganized in 1937 under the name Negro American League, which disbanded in 1960.

Kennedy Graduates from Military Academy

Christopher Shay Kennedy, son of Frederick James and Nancy Shay Kennedy of Kernersville, graduated from Oak Ridge Military Academy on May 29.

Kennedy has been accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point - the Citadel and plans for a career as a United States Army Officer.



Christopher Shay Kennedy

Brown Holds Track Record

By DEBY JO FERGUSON
Chronicle Sports Writer

James A. Brown III is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Brown II and the grandson of Rosa L. Holloman of Winston-Salem.

He is a senior at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte but has left Winston-Salem and Mt. Tabor High School with a record many strive to exceed.

According to Mt. Tabor track coach Mike Esposito, "Brown was always a very good kid and has done very well for himself."

Brown, and three other teammates have held the state record since 1989 in the 3,200-meter relay with a time of 7:51.40.

Brown also holds his high school record in the 800-meter run at 1:55.41 and was in the top five on the state champion cross country team.

Brown is now majoring in communications at Johnson C. Smith University.



James A. Brown III is described as a student who has done very well.

Magic Denies Sexual Allegations in Book

NEW YORK (AP) — Magic Johnson defended himself against posthumous criticism of his sexual exploits from Arthur Ashe.

In a book completed just before his death from AIDS, Ashe charged that the exploits of Johnson and fellow basketball star Wilt Chamberlain reinforced racist stereotypes of the black man as a slave to his sex drive.

"I have always taken full responsibility for my actions and risked public alienation by coming

forward with my story," Johnson, who is infected with the AIDS virus, said in a statement last Wednesday. "It is my hope that by taking the straightforward approach, I have begun and will continue to educate and bring awareness to the prevention and spread of this disease."

Johnson also called the tennis star "a role model for all."

Chamberlain's whereabouts couldn't immediately be deter-

mined. Johnson has been open about his promiscuity, and Chamberlain has claimed 20,000 "conquests."

"African Americans have spent decades denying that we are sexual primitives by nature, as racists have argued since the days of slavery," wrote Ashe, who died Feb. 6 at age 49. "These two college-trained black men of international fame and immense personal wealth do their best to reinforce the stereotype."

MEAC Offers Officiating School Sessions

For the fourth time in the 10-year history of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Basketball Officiating School, two sessions will be conducted. The first 1993 session was set June 13-17 in Orangeburg, S.C. at MEAC member South Carolina State University during its Team Basketball Camp. The second session is scheduled for June 17-20 in Blacksburg, Va. in conjunction with the "Hokies Basketball Camp" at Virginia Technical University. The purpose of the school is to provide an opportunity for aspiring officials who want to become better on the college level and those who want to improve their skills on any level. The program places emphasis on individualized instruction, team officiating, the philosophy of officiation, interpretation and application of rules, technique, and game mechanics. John Russell, MEAC supervisor of basketball officials and internationally known clinician, is the school director. Free, along with MEAC supervisor of officials, Paul Glenn, will assist. Other staff members are MEAC game officials Bob Barnett, Joe Mitchell, William Whites, Al Battista, James Howell, and Donnee Gray. All have NCAA regionals officiating experience except Battista, who is a respected clinician.

Counselors include: Jimmy Askew, Tony Greene, Eddie Laws, Terry Moore, and Robert Pugh; also members of the MEAC officiating

roster. Askew, Laws and Pugh have also officiated games in the NCAA regionals. Consultants are legendary coach John McLendon, Tim Autry, Danny Doss, Leon Myers, and James T. Burch. McLendon, who studied under the father of basketball, James Naismith, has been inducted into the National Sports Hall Of Fame, the NAIA Hall and

the MEAC Hall. Autry, Commissioner of the Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, is a former coach in the MEAC. Doss, a noted clinician, is a former CIAA supervisor of officials and past president of the IAABO. Myers is the EIAC supervisor of officials, and Burch is the Southern Conference supervisor of officials.



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