**The Negro Leagues and Their Impact on Desegregation in 20th Century America:**

**Athletic Prowess, Pride, Culture, and Change**

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Junior Thesis

Shortly before his death in 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. told Don Newcombe, an African American pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers, “You'll never know how easy you and Jackie [Robinson] and [Larry] Doby and [Roy Campanella] made it for me to do my job by what you did on the baseball field.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Baseball, race relations, and civil rights were thoroughly intertwined in U.S. history. In late 19th century America, African Americans played baseball alongside whites, almost as equals. Slowly but surely, however, the racist attitudes of whites led to the decline of blacks in baseball. By the early 1900s, blacks were completely out of what was now “white baseball.” With many still badly wanting to play, the Negro Leagues were eventually formed. These surprisingly successful leagues lasted until the mid 20th century. Although their role in the civil rights movement is often overlooked, it was pivotal. The Negro Leagues helped lay the foundation for the end of segregation by allowing African Americans to excel in the U.S. even during times of discrimination, demonstrating African American talent to both blacks and whites, helping blacks gain pride in themselves, and positively impacting the two cultures. Along with powerful historical happenings such as the Harlem Renaissance and World War II, the Negro Leagues served as an impetus for desegregation.

The argument could be made that the Negro Leagues actually perpetuated segregation, because they were limited to black players. Unfortunately, African Americans had no choice but to create these leagues. They were barred from Major League Baseball (MLB), yet they wanted the opportunity to play. They did not have the power to persuade whites to let them back in baseball. Historian Todd Rosa wrote, “Racial segregation in baseball probably could not have been avoided.”[[2]](#footnote-2) Even though they were segregated, the Negro Leagues helped set the stage for the civil rights movement. They united African Americans through sports, and it was during these athletic contests that whites began to see that blacks were not inferior. They were also one of the largest African-American enterprises at the time, providing great opportunity for blacks.[[3]](#footnote-3) While an argument can be made that the Negro Leagues reinforced segregation, further examination shows that this is not true.

From 1870 to 1889, blacks played alongside whites in professional baseball.[[4]](#footnote-4) There were more than 50 African Americans in “white baseball,” with most joining during the 1870s and 1880s.[[5]](#footnote-5) Although they were a minority in the game, they still had decent representation. As time went on, however, antipathy towards blacks grew. By 1887, almost all blacks had disappeared from baseball. Many of them chose to quit because of all the racism that they faced.

The few blacks who remained endured enormous hardship. They were continuously headhunted by the pitchers and spiked with metal cleats by opposing players. Historian Mark Ribowsky wrote, “The racist backlash felt by the black players… had little to do with that league per se; it had everything to do with the national mood regarding racial relations.”[[6]](#footnote-6) Baseball was run by “white men with closed minds,” according to historian Paul Finkelman, and no rule changes were made to prevent this terrible discrimination.[[7]](#footnote-7)

This resulted in fewer and fewer African Americans who were willing to participate in the game. “Exclusion based on race had now become unwritten law in the International League, and a precedent for all levels of organized baseball.”[[8]](#footnote-8) Baseball was officially a “white man’s sport” by 1889.[[9]](#footnote-9) To make matters worse, MLB owners all agreed not to sign any more blacks to their teams. White players contributed as well: many of them voted blacks out of leagues. This was a lowly and hypocritical thing to do, as Finkelman suggests: “Awful contradictions of racist segregation…Same whites who proclaimed their superiority to blacks were afraid to face their “inferiors” on the ball field.”[[10]](#footnote-10) Blacks briefly united to revolt against segregated play, but lack of organization and power left them unsuccessful. Although the game of baseball began with a promise of equality, hope soon turned into despair for blacks as they were driven out of the MLB and forced into segregation.

Jim Crow laws were passed during this time, completely ending integration not only in baseball, but in all aspects of public life for Americans. The term “Jim Crow” represented discrimination by whites against blacks in the 1800s and 1900s.[[11]](#footnote-11) After the Compromise of 1887 ended Reconstruction, there were no legal obstacles to Jim Crow laws for the South. Many degrading stereotypes were associated with blacks, including views that they were foolish, dim, lazy, sneaky, incompetent, untrustworthy, dishonorable, and weak.[[12]](#footnote-12) These stereotypes heightened demand for Jim Crow laws. Propaganda circulated claiming that blacks needed supervision. They were continuously denied working and citizenship rights, despite the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. These denials led to limited economic possibilities, educational opportunities, and housing options. Countless African Americans were forced into poverty. They experienced disadvantages in every aspect of life, including in the courtroom, where they had absolutely no justice. In 1896 the Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* declared “separate but ‘equal’” accommodations, otherwise known as the legalization of segregation.[[13]](#footnote-13) The KKK and similar white-supremacy groups were formed during the Jim Crow era, causing increased oppression of blacks.[[14]](#footnote-14)

The Great Migration beginning in the early 1900s saw millions of African Americans move North for more rights, but they still faced strong racism and disadvantages there.[[15]](#footnote-15) Ribowsky wrote, “Northern men no longer denounce the suppression of the Negro vote [in the South] as it used to be denounced in the Reconstruction days…”[[16]](#footnote-16) The Jim Crow laws took away united baseball, which had been one of blacks’ few outlets for an escape from discrimination. This removal furthered their anguish. Historian Judith Baughman said, “No minority group has suffered so deeply or reaped such benefits from sports as has the American black.”[[17]](#footnote-17)

 Black athletes responded to segregation by trying to form their own baseball leagues. The first attempt occurred in 1906.[[18]](#footnote-18) It ended after one season, due to financial issues among other reasons. The second attempt never even saw a game played. Many attempts were made in the early 1900s, and many failures were the result. There were a couple of reasons for this. Economic support was a large problem: It was extremely difficult to get enough financial stability to support a league. Many people also lacked interest in the idea, assuming it would fail. It was also hard to create a schedule that worked for everyone, and to find a place to play, because blacks were prohibited from playing at white baseball fields. Umpires were hard to come by, and the teams that eventually began to form were uneven. Players cared only about the money at first, so the poor teams did not stand a chance against the wealthier ones.

Finally, a man named Rube Foster stepped up. He created the first “credible” league in 1920, known as the Negro National League (NNL).[[19]](#footnote-19) He was determined to avoid being exploited by whites, so he ensured that the league was run solely by African Americans. The NNL began to prosper, and Foster’s success inspired others. He became known as the “Father of the Negro Leagues.” The Negro Southern Leagues was soon created, and different divisions were formed for competition. Foster even proposed a black vs. white interracial World Series, and this idea was soon carried out.

In 1926, Foster grew ill. This, along with the start of the Great Depression, led to weakening of the Negro Leagues. Money was scarce, and the lack of Foster’s presence to keep things running sent the leagues into decline. Only wealthy teams survived these tough times, and in 1931 the NNL went bankrupt and folded. Teams began to rely on barnstorming, where they would travel around the country hoping to gain money.[[20]](#footnote-20) This was a grim time for the Negro Leagues, but fortunately, things would turn around.

 In 1932, Gus Greenlee, an African American businessman, was able to bring back the NNL. He saw great economic opportunity, and he was able to financially back the league. He began to transform it and make it more appealing. The Negro League soon evolved into the Negro Leagues, complete with several divisions, many cities, and more financially stable franchises.

The mid 1930s to early 1940s were when the leagues truly prospered. The leagues were organized so that each team would play 150 games per season.[[21]](#footnote-21) Occasionally, they would have games against white teams. There was also a Negro League World Series and an All-Star Game. Both were tremendously popular. For the All-Star Game, the best NNL vs. best National American League (NAL) players competed. This game was the most well-liked aspect of black baseball from 1933 to 1950.[[22]](#footnote-22) The game attracted up to 50,000 fans, despite the fact that all of the players were black, and it eventually expanded into other countries. As the leagues expanded, they caught the attention of many. According to Ribowsky, “…The men of the Negro Leagues played serious ball.”[[23]](#footnote-23)

Yet African Americans still faced judgment and labeling. In order to gain likability, they made efforts to mimic white leagues.[[24]](#footnote-24) They employed a similar system, with the main difference being that black players received less money than whites. Benefits of the Negro Leagues included the fact that all money earned went to black hands, none to whites. Many famous players helped popularize the leagues and give them credibility, including pitcher Satchel Paige. The stronger teams drew large crowds of blacks and whites, something rare for the time. White people were surprised by their talent, as many had no idea that blacks were such good athletes. Many even preferred “blackball” to “whiteball,” as it was often more exciting than the MLB. Buck O’ Neil, a player in the Negro Leagues and later a coach in the MLB, said:

[The black version of baseball] wasn’t like white baseball, either. While the major leagues relied on the longball that Babe Ruth brought to the game, black baseball was fast and aggressive, with lots of stealing and, bunting, hit-and-run play. It was the game Jackie Robinson learned and then brought to the majors twenty-four years later—speed, intelligence, unbridled aggressiveness on the basepaths—… it was thrilling.[[25]](#footnote-25)

Interracial barnstorming tours were conducted as well, to help show the public the athletes’ talent. The tours attracted even more fans, and by 1942, over 3 million fans a year were coming out to watch blacks play; the 1943 All-Star game attracted 51,000 fans.[[26]](#footnote-26) Satchel Paige summed up the impact: “Even the white folks was coming out big.”[[27]](#footnote-27) The Negro Leagues enjoyed almost 20 years of great success before finally beginning to decline in the mid-1940s.

Beginning around 1944, the Negro Leagues started to lose people’s attention. The biggest reason for this was the fact that the color barrier finally began to disappear. Pressure to integrate sports mounted, with whites and blacks alike advocating the end of segregation. This was seen not only in baseball, but also in many other sports. People realized blacks were a key part of sports, and keeping them out was lessening excitement. In 1945, a few MLB teams opened tryouts back up to blacks.

The white man who played perhaps the largest role in the integration of baseball was Brooklyn Dodger President Branch Rickey. He was determined to bring an African American into baseball. He said, “The greatest untapped reservoir of raw material in the history of the game is the black race. The Negroes will make us winners for years to come, and for that I will happily bear being called a bleeding heart and a do-gooder and all that humanitarian rot.”[[28]](#footnote-28) Rickey signed Jackie Robinson on October 23, 1945.[[29]](#footnote-29) Robinson was the first black player in the major leagues in 63 years, and he took his first at-bat on April 15, 1947.[[30]](#footnote-30) Rosa wrote, “After Robinson’s debut with the Dodgers in 1947, at the beginning of the civil rights movement, African Americans took their rightful place in the national game, redeeming America’s pastime.”[[31]](#footnote-31) Other players followed Robinson’s lead. Historian Robert Peterson wrote, “Several other African Americans joined minor league teams, beginning a trend of growing acceptance of blacks in baseball.”[[32]](#footnote-32)

Desperate to keep the business alive and the money flowing, NNL teams tried various strategies. They did everything from signing whites to trying out females. Yet nothing could bring back the attention they had once received. Soon the Negro Leagues became nothing more than a launch pad for young talent.[[33]](#footnote-33) Attendance at games plummeted, and many players were stuck in limbo; they were not good enough for the MLB, but there was no longer any point in being in the Negro Leagues. The drawn-out drop-off of the NNL ended in 1948 when the league went bankrupt, and the NAL finally ended in 1960.[[34]](#footnote-34) A few independent teams tried to continue, but were unsuccessful. All blackball teams were officially gone by 1973. The Negro Leagues’ time had come and gone.

The Negro Leagues had a profoundly positive impact on black culture. Black fans of all ages looked up to black players, viewing them as role models. Baseball played a significant role in the lives of members of the black community, as it was the “chief sports attraction for African Americans.”[[35]](#footnote-35) It provided blacks with great excitement, and was something that they could excel in without having to worry about whites preventing them from doing so. Blacks saw that their talents were not inferior to those of whites. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “[Segregation] gives the segregator a false sense of superiority, it gives the segregated a false sense of inferiority.”[[36]](#footnote-36) Fervor for blacks to attend games broke out, as they were eager to show pride in their race. According to Ribowsky, “The first wave of black nationalism since the abolitionists had emerged in the midtwenties [through blackball].”[[37]](#footnote-37) Thanks to the vibrancy of the Negro Leagues, blacks finally began to feel a sense of identity.

This newfound pride coincided with the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s. Blacks began to freely express themselves. Their creation of the “New Negro” further increased pride in their society, so they demanded more rights.[[38]](#footnote-38) Black art of all kinds gained prominence as America slowly opened up for black artists. Talented musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington emerged, among many others. This theme of pride appeared in sports as well, as black athletes continued to prove that blacks were not inferior. Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson (a catcher and power-hitter), Joe Louis (a popular boxer), and many others paved the way for this new era of self-respect. In the 1936 Olympics, Jesse Owens also helped to prove blacks were not inferior by dominating the track and field events.[[39]](#footnote-39)

Blacks were able to gain advancement and recognition for their talents during this time, something they had rarely experienced in the past. Their confidence grew as a result. There were more college graduates, per capita, in “blackball” than there were in the majors.[[40]](#footnote-40) Black athletes counteracted old stereotypes and created a new, more positive image. The Kansas City Monarchs blackball team, for example, was considered a “counterbalance of dignity and class.”[[41]](#footnote-41)

Many Americans were still not convinced. Ribowsky wrote, “Yet these idiot life-forms held dear by many whites not eager to change their conceptions about the black race, were not going to go away…”[[42]](#footnote-42) Fortunately, however, many others sided with blacks, to the point where some white-only hotels even began to accommodate black stars.[[43]](#footnote-43) This further showed the importance of black athletes and gained the attention of Americans. Players themselves felt the movement. O’ Neil said:

You couldn’t help but feel you were part of something special. And not only when you were in Kansas City, either. We carried ourselves like Monarchs wherever we went, and to people all over, we were Monarchs. We were in the front row, man, the front row. We stayed at the best hotels, ate in the best restaurants; they just happened to be black.[[44]](#footnote-44)

The Negro Leagues had an enormous impact on the lives of African Americans. During these times of segregation, they provided blacks with a sense of pride, purpose, and importance.

Blacks were given a major economic boost through the Negro Leagues as well. Blackball player Donn Rogosin said, “[Negro Leagues] may rank among the highest achievements of black enterprise during segregation.”[[45]](#footnote-45) According to historian Daniel Nathan, “[Negro Leagues quickly] became an institution central to African American life.”[[46]](#footnote-46) These leagues were about more than just baseball. This significant economic ripple positively affected the lives of many non-athletes. The Negro Leagues were among the largest black businesses in the United States. They were woven firmly into the fabric of black experience.[[47]](#footnote-47) The leagues opened up large numbers of jobs for blacks, aiding many who had been suffering in poverty. At the height of their success, they were a $2 million dollar business.[[48]](#footnote-48) As for the players, the stars got about $1,000 per month, and the average player got a bit less. Satchel Paige, by far the most popular player in the Negro Leagues, got between $30,000 and $40,000 a year.[[49]](#footnote-49) The economic success of the leagues brought yet another benefit to African Americans.

The Negro Leagues had a progressive impact on white culture as well. Initially, whites had no interest in blackball. However, over time, black teams began to compete against white teams. These games were especially exciting to watch and increased the number of fans attending. Before long, whites started to go to black games to see the stars. They were attracted by their interest in these phenomenal players. This increase in white fans led to an increase in white reporters at the Negro League games. Blacks began to receive positive attention from the media and the press. Black reporter Chester Washington wrote, “The mightiest and most colorful drama of bats and balls in all diamond history.”[[50]](#footnote-50) Although whites began to cover the games, there was not a great change at first. Ribowsky wrote, “No voice in the white press sought to end the major’s color line.”[[51]](#footnote-51) Yet white reporters did start spreading the word that blacks were excelling in baseball.

President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal in the 1930s aided the process of changing Americans’ attitudes about race. It created more jobs and promoted civil rights for blacks.[[52]](#footnote-52) Calls for integration also resulted from black participation in World War II. Politician Albert Chandler said, “If a black boy can make it on Okinawa and Guadalcanal, hell, he can make it in baseball.”[[53]](#footnote-53) People realized how wrong it was for blacks to be disallowed from baseball while fighting a war for their country. Ballplayer Nate Moreland said, “I can play in Mexico, but I have to fight for America where I can’t play.”[[54]](#footnote-54) After fighting alongside blacks overseas, whites began to question segregation.

All of these new attitudes began to challenge Jim Crow laws. In June of 1941, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802. This banned “discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government.”[[55]](#footnote-55) He also established FEPC, the Fair Employment Practices Committee.[[56]](#footnote-56) These positive changes opened up more jobs for blacks, and gave them further opportunity to escape discrimination.

As the mid-1900s wore on, whites began to step forward and aid blacks in the civil rights movement. The American Communist Party urged the government to end the color line.[[57]](#footnote-57) Once whites started seeing the senselessness in segregation, they said things like, “If social distinctions are to be made, half the players in the country will be shut out,” according to the *Newark Call.*[[58]](#footnote-58) Finally, white baseball players opened up to blacks; many were more accepting of playing alongside these men. For example, when Ted Williams, a white baseball player, made his famous Hall of Fame acceptance speech on July 25, 1966, he advocated for blacks to get into the Baseball Hall of Fame:

…Baseball gives every American boy a chance to excel, not just to be as good as someone else but to be better than someone else. This is the nature of man and the name of the game and I’ve always been a lucky guy to have worn a baseball uniform, to have struck out or to have hit a tape measure home run. And I hope that someday the names of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson in some way can be added as a symbol of great Negro players that are not here only because they were not given a chance…[[59]](#footnote-59)

The Negro Leagues impacted not only the lives of those in them, but also the lives of those around them. Whites began to see blacks as people like them, and became more accepting.

The Negro Leagues played a key role in American history, impacting both blacks and whites. They aided the process of integration in the U.S. because of their immediate and eventual impact. As the Negro Leagues helped to reveal that the stereotypes pinned onto black athletes were false, the value of African Americans in society rose. Rogosin said:

The importance of the Negro Leagues transcended the world of sport. A small group of black men, gifted with remarkable skills, reached above the menial and mundane. In the process they became worldly, and some became wise. Scuffing to make a living playing the game that they loved, these men became symbols of competence and achievement for all black people. Because they provided joy and excitement in their often dramatic quest for victories and Negro League pennants, they enriched life in black America. When their baseball victories came against white opponents, they undermined segregation itself.[[60]](#footnote-60)

The role that the Negro Leagues played in ending segregation was seen in the decades that followed. Essayist and critic Gerald Early said, “Negro-league owners saw baseball as an economic and social institution that gave blacks a sense of cohesion beyond the band of unrelenting oppression.”[[61]](#footnote-61) King, Jr. called Jackie Robinson, “A pilgrim that walked in the lonesome byways toward the high road of freedom. He was a sit-inner before sit-ins, a freedom rider before freedom rides.”[[62]](#footnote-62)

As baseball became integrated and the civil rights movement progressed, many African Americans were able to look past the harsh reasons of why these leagues were created, and see the great benefits that they brought. O’ Neil pointed out:

Everyone was saying, “Isn’t it a shame Satchel didn’t play with all the great athletes of the major leagues [when he was younger]? But who’s to say that he wasn’t, playing with us? We played the white teams, and we won most of the time. I don’t know that we were that much better, but we had something to prove. Maybe we played a little harder. We thought we were the best, but nobody else knew it but us.[[63]](#footnote-63)

African Americans’ determination to play baseball despite many obstacles and hardships ended up paying off.

The Negro Leagues showed what had never been shown before. At Satchel Paige’s funeral eulogy, the following words were said by the *Newark Call:*

If anywhere in this world the social barriers are broken down it is on the ball field. There many men of low birth and poor breeding are the idols of the rich and cultured: the best man is who plays best. Even men of churlish dispositions and coarse hues are tolerated on the field. In view of these facts the objection to colored men is ridiculous.[[64]](#footnote-64)

Historian Richard Justice said, “Whether it's Dr. King or Jackie Robinson, it's about the sacrifices they showed the world. All roads lead back to right here. If not for the Negro Leagues, we don't get Jackie Robinson.”[[65]](#footnote-65) After breaking the color barrier in baseball, Robinson said, “I realize how much it means to me, to my race, and to baseball.”[[66]](#footnote-66) Sports played a role in breaking the color barrier in daily life, not just in baseball.

After Jackie Robinson took the first step, integration in America became more than just a hopeless dream; it became an achievable goal for the future. Blacks and whites changed for the better in part thanks to the enormous enterprise known as the Negro Leagues, and segregation finally showed weakness.

 The Negro Leagues were one of the few bright spots in African American culture during the early to mid 1900s. They helped to shape more accepting views of blacks by many whites who previously had racist beliefs, and improved the lives of a multitude of blacks who were given opportunities previously unimaginable. Sports provided a rare escape from discrimination for blacks. Blacks’ sense of community and pride were boosted when African American athletes caught the attention of the public. A unique black culture was created among players and fans during the NL era. The Negro Leagues’ impact on American culture and on blacks and whites, with help from major movements, was permanent. Complete integration could not be accomplished immediately at the time due to the racial climate, but great progress was still made and society was gradually improved. The Negro Leagues represented a silver lining for blacks, providing them with power and positives during times where they needed it the most; they helped to set the stage for greater rights in the coming generations.

Word Count: 4,186

**Annotated Bibliography**

Antonio, Edward P. "Civil Rights Movement." *Contemporary American Religion*. Ed. Wade Clark Roof. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 1999. 134-37. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 24 Nov. 2013.

This source helped me understand the side of the African Americans during these times of segregation and racism. It made it easier for me to connect segregation to the Negro Leagues, thanks to this source. I didn't get any quotes from it, but it still had solid information.

Baughman, Judith S., ed. "Baseball: The Negro Leagues." *American Decades*. 1920-1929 ed. Vol. 3. Detroit: Gale, 2001. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 24 Nov. 2013.

This source summarized information that I had already learned from previous sources, but it still helped to confirm facts. I got a couple of good quotes from it, and it strengthened the background section of my notecards.

"Brooklyn Signs First Negro for Organized Ball." *Boston Globe* 24 Oct. 1945: 17-18. *Boston Globe*. Web. 3 Jan. 2014.

This was a strong primary source about Jackie Robinson's arrival in baseball with the help of Branch Rickey, and the breaking of the color barrier. It had a great quote from him and helped my paper.

Darity, William A., Jr., ed. "Jim Crow." *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. 2nd ed. Vol. 4. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008. 198-201. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 24 Nov. 2013.

This source helped me to connect the historical context of the Jim Crow laws to the Negro Leagues. It gave me good background information on the racism and segregation that was seen at the time. It was helpful for when I needed to relate the Negro Leagues to the culture of America.

Finkelman, Paul. "Remembering the Negro Leagues." *Oxford AASC:*. Web. 01 Jan. 2014.

This source provided nice insight on mainly the legacy of the Negro Leagues and racism. It brought up a few good points about how racial discrimination was contradictory, etc., and helped my paper.

Goldman, Steven. "Segregated Baseball: A Kaleidoscopic Review." *Major League Baseball*. Web. 19 Jan. 2014.

This source gave a great overview of the Negro Leagues, including what led up to them, what exactly happened during them, and their demise. It was helpful to have one source sum that all up, and it even had a couple of strong quotes as well.

Justice, Richard. "Lives of King, Robinson Forever Intertwined." *Major League Baseball*. MLB. Web. 20 Jan. 2014.

This article was immensely helpful, as it contained a quote that practically proved my thesis. It explained how the lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and Jackie Robinson were very much related, and provided me with a lot of help.

Lynch, Hollis. "African Americans." *Britannica School*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2013. Web. 9 Dec. 2013.

This source provided great information that helped me understand the role of African Americans during World War II. That was important to my paper because the war, along with the Negro Leagues, played a role in ending segregation.

Nathan, Daniel A. "Bearing Witness to Blackball: Buck O'Neil, the Negro Leagues, and the Politics of the Past." *Journal of American Studies, American Mosaic: Social Conflict and Cultural Contract in the Twentieth Century* 35.3 (Dec. 2001): 453-69. *JSTOR*. Web. 3 Jan. 2014.

This was an excellent source, filled with many great quotes that came in handy for my paper. It was mainly looking back at the Negro Leagues many years later, and discussed how they should be viewed. It provided great detail on Buck O'Neil, a baseball player from the Jim Crow time period.

"Negro in Lineup Brings League Order to Forfeit Game." *Boston Globe* 21 May 1953: 15-16. *Boston Globe*. Web. 3 Jan. 2014.

This served as a good primary source, a newspaper article written right in the midst of the era where blacks began to integrate with whites in the major leagues, and it had a good quote.

Peterson, Robert W. "Negro League." *Britannica School*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2013. Web. 24 Nov. 2013.

The source was a great starting source for me. It provided a substantial amount of credible background information, giving me a wider understanding of the Negro Leagues. I didn't use it to find any important quotes, but I used it to cover the basics of my topic.

Ribowsky, Mark. *A Complete History of the Negro Leagues, 1884 to 1955*. Secaucus, NJ: Carol Pub. Group, 1995. Print.

This source provided me with a lot of strong quotes that went to good use in my paper. It talked about the civil rights movement at the time, which will helped me connect my paper to American culture and history. This book was a big help.

Rosa, Todd Anthony. "Negro Leagues." *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*. Ed. Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Vol. 3. Detroit: St. James, 2000. 497-99. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 24 Nov. 2013.

This source was very helpful. It went in-depth on the Negro Leagues, and provided me with several strong subjective quotes that had good use for my JT. It summarized the existence of the Negro Leagues well, giving interesting information.

"Theodore Samuel Williams - Induction Speech." *Baseball Hall of Fame*. Web. 08 Dec. 2013.

I researched Ted William's Hall of Fame induction speech because I had been told that in it he advocated for the allowing of African-Americans into the HOF. This was true, as he wrote an inspirational speech on the matter, which related well to my topic.

Tygiel, Jules. "The Negro Leagues." *OAH Magazine of History, History of Sport, Recreation, and Leisure* Summer 1992: 24-27. *JSTOR*. Web. 3 Jan. 2014.

This article found in a magazine through JSTOR was enormously helpful to me. It provided me with notes for several notecards and gave great insight on the legacy of the Negro Leagues, and its impact on whites, MLB, and America. It further helped me to come up with an idea for my thesis.

White, George, Jr. "African Americans, World War II." *Americans at War, 1901-1945*. Ed. John P. Resch. Vol. 3. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, Gale Virtual Reference Library, 2005. 5-7. Print.

This source gave strong, specific information on the role of African-Americans in World War II. It connected their role to American culture, which tied in well with my paper. It didn't provide me with many quotes, but it helped to expand my knowledge on the topic.

1. Richard Justice, *Lives of Kind, Robinson Forever Intertwined* (MLB, 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Todd Rosa, *Negro Leagues* (Detroit: St. James Press, 2000), 497 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Daniel A. Nathan, *Bearing Witness to Blackball: Buck O'Neil, the Negro Leagues, and the Politics of the Past* (Journal of American Studies, American Mosaic: Social Conflict and Cultural Contract in the Twentieth Century 35.3, 2001), 457 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Rosa, 497 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Mark Ribowsky, *A Complete History of the Negro Leagues, 1884 to 1955* (Secaucus, NJ: Carol Pub. Group, 1995), 30 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Paul Finkelman, *Remembering the Negro Leagues* (Oxford AASC) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ribowsky, 33 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Ribowsky, 33 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. William A. Darity, *Jim Crow* (Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008), 198 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Ribowsky, 31 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Darity, 200 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ribowsky, 31 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Judith S. Baughman, *Baseball: The Negro Leagues* (Detroit: American Decades, 1920-1929), 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Robert W. Peterson, *Negro League* (Encyclopedia Britannica) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Peterson [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Rosa, 498 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Peterson [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Baughman, 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Rosa, 497 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
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