Baseball And The Colorline

The majority of modern day sports fans seem to be under the impression that blacks did not enter the field of American baseball on a grand scale until Jackie Robinson broke the color line in 1947.

Nothing could be farther from the truth.

As a matter of fact, highly talented black players previously had flourished in an exciting world of their own for more than half a century. Their feats down through the years became legendary to hundreds of thousands of dedicated followers of the Negro Baseball Leagues.

Oldtimers still talk about the exploits of such great superstars as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Rube Foster, "Cyclone Joe" Williams, Willie Wells, Dick Lundy, "Mule" Suttles, Martin Dihigo, John Henry Lloyd, Oscar Charleston and a host of others of similar stature.

Furthermore, there were no greater baseball teams to be found anywhere in the land than some of the all-black outfits that operated throughout that period . . . teams like the Homestead Grays, Lincoln Giants, Kansas City Monarchs, Newark Eagles, Chicago American Giants, New York Cuban Stars, Baltimore Elite Giants and Pittsburgh Crawfords — just to name a few.

Blacks, for decades, had been barred from participating in the organized white minor and major leagues, so they developed their own branch of the "National Pastime."

They organized various leagues in the East, Midwest and South; set up their own financial structure; and cultivated a unique, colorful style on the field of play that wowed their rapidly growing

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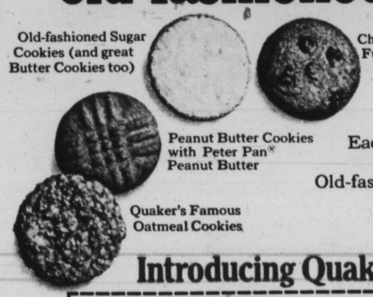
An old-fashioned man brings back old-fashioned cookies.



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