



Ebbets Field



[https://
video.pbsnc.or
g/video/part-6-
the-national-
pastime-c2n71f/](https://video.pbsnc.org/video/part-6-the-national-pastime-c2n71f/)

54:30-1:00:55



All-American Girls Professional Baseball League



Edythe Perlick of the Racine Belles.





*"We had to look like ladies
and play ball like men."*

- Lavonne Paire-Davis





A 1958 department store window depicting the ideal suburban family. It instructs women consumers “How to Keep a Man” - by buying home movie cameras and backyard barbecues.

"Women who lead very active lives, under conditions of nervous stress and strain, often do not conceive, and when they do, they miscarry. These women are violating their own biological natures; and for this they pay a heavy price."

- Ladies Home Journal
1949





The Mahatma: Rickey's career and his subterfuge: the United States League



RICKEY EXPLAINS HIS EQUATION, in which the first cluster of symbols stands for offense, the second for defense, and G (for game)

GOODBY TO

'The Brain' of the game unveils formula

As the man who guided the St. Louis Cardinals to six National League pennants and the Brooklyn Dodgers to two, Branch Rickey, currently general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, is considered baseball's loneliest and most successful executive. He was among the first to use such revolutionary practices as the farm system and the mass tryout camp, the first executive to see the value of using baseball statistics in putting together and running his teams. Now he has developed another approach to the game which Little League presents.

BASEBALL people generally are allergic to new ideas. We are slow to change. For 51 years I have judged baseball by personal observation, by considered opinion and by accepted statistical methods. But recently I have come upon a device for measuring baseball which has compelled me to put different values on some of my oldest and most cherished theories. It reveals some new and startling truths about the nature of the game. It is a means of gauging with a high degree of accuracy important factors which contribute to winning and losing baseball games. It is the most disconcerting and at the same time the most constructive thing to come into baseball in my memory. The formula, for I so designate it, is what mathematicians call a simple, additive equation:

$$\left(\frac{H+BB+HP}{AB+BB+HP} + \frac{3(TB-H)}{4AB} + \frac{R}{H+BB+HP} \right) - \left(\frac{H}{AB} + \frac{BB+HB}{AB+BB+HB} + \frac{ER}{H+BB+HB} - \frac{SO}{8(AB+BB+HB)} - F \right) = G$$

The symbols, familiar to all baseball fans, are explained in the caption to the picture above. The part of the equation in the first parenthesis stands for a baseball team's offense. The part in the second

represents the results or efficiency of the team. In both groups H stands for hits, BB for bases on balls, AB for times at bat. In offense group HP stands

for hit by pitcher, TB for total bases, R for runs. In defense group HB stands for hit batsman, ER for earned runs, SO for strikeouts and F for fielding.

SOME OLD BASEBALL IDEAS

that statistically disproves cherished myths and demonstrates what really wins

by BRANCH RICKEY

ability to get base runners home with runs. But the formula establishes that the real reason for the Giants' spectacular success this season has been pitching and the key to pitching success is the staff's ability to keep men who get on base from scoring. The formula is designed primarily to gauge and analyze performance on a team basis. But certain elements in it provide a yardstick for measuring individual talent. It can show a manager how and why certain players are helping the team and how and why others are failing. A complete understanding of the formula could influence player trades. It can cause an intelligent manager to alter some features of his tactical approach to the game. If the baseball world is to accept this new system of analyzing the game—and eventually it will—it must first give up preconceived ideas. I had to. The formula outrages certain standards that experienced baseball people have sworn by all their lives. Runs batted in? A misleading figure. Strikeouts? I always rated them highly as a determining factor in pitching. I do now. But new facts convince me that I have overrated their importance in so far as game importance is concerned. Even batting average must be reexamined.

What Johnny Whozit hit

THERE are people who pride themselves on their ability to quote what Johnny Whozit hit the year of the big flood. Among fans it is the accepted standard of excellence at bat. Why? Principally because it is easy to figure. Even the professionals lean upon it. But batting average is only a partial means of determining a man's effectiveness on offense. It neglects a major factor, the base on balls, which is reflected only negatively in the batting average (by not counting it as a time at bat). Actually walks are extremely important.

months ago if the development of such a formula was possible, I expressed serious doubts. In the past little effort and almost no thought has been spent on separating the basic elements of baseball and giving them a relative value. Mr. Connie Mack was once quoted as saying that pitching was 70% of the game. My own feeling, before compiling and examining any evidence, was that pitching was at least 50% of the game. I considered it baseball's most important single department. Give me four superb starting pitchers—Christy Mathewson, Cy Young, Walter Johnson and Dizzy Dean—and I felt I could win a pennant with Humpty Dumpy at every other position. George Weiss, general manager of the New York Yankees and a man whose opinion I respect, put pitching at about 35% of the game.

What were the facts? To help assemble data that would lead to facts I brought in Allan Roth, who prepares and refines statistics for the Brooklyn Dodgers and who, in my opinion, is the top statistical specialist in baseball.

The problem had to be approached cautiously. It became apparent after several false and frustrating starts that baseball statistics were indeed puzzling. They tried men's patience. Only after reverting to bare ABC's was any progress noted. We knew, of course, that all baseball was divided into two parts—offense and defense. We concluded further that weakness or strength in either of these departments could be measured in terms of runs. This offense was equal to the number of runs scored by a team and defense was equal to the number of runs scored against it. It was the only practical way to figure it. These were facts.

The next step was to find out how to use them. Perhaps, by taking the runs scored per game by major league clubs over an entire season and measuring them against opponents' runs, some pattern could be determined. We compiled these figures for both major leagues for



UNITED STATES
Base Ball LEAGUE

Address all communications to league headquarters: 1401 Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh 29, Pa. Phone: COurt 8926
May 28, 1946

President:
JOHN G. SHACKLEFORD
302 Riverside Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio
EXpress 2300

Vice President-Treasurer:
W. A. GREENLEE
1401 Wylie Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.
COurt 8926

Ex. Secretary:
SYDNEY SMITH

Publicity Director:
HATWARD JACKSON

Road Secretary:
HAMPTON E. JOHNSON

Dear Friend:

Brooklyn will see the dawn of a new day in Negro baseball when the United States Baseball League presents in its local league opening game at historic Ebbets Field, Sunday, June 9, 1946 the colorful Brooklyn Brown Dodgers versus the hunting Boston Blues. The first game of a double-header will start at 2:30 p.m.

In addition to being the only authentic Negro League that follows the rules and regulations of organized major league baseball, the U. S. Baseball League has a progressive and definite program for the development of the youths of your community. In this worthwhile effort we have been assured of the support of the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League, who gave history making opportunities to Jackie Robinson, John Wright, Roy Campanella, Donald Newcomb, Roy Partlow and who have now opened the same door of opportunity to the Brown Dodgers and your sons.

A black and white group photograph of the Cincinnati Crescents baseball team. The players are posed in two rows, with some standing and some kneeling or sitting in the front. They are wearing dark uniforms with "CINCINNATI" on the front. A caption at the bottom reads: "CINCINNATI CRESCENTS B' BALL CLUB September-October 1946 14-game series - Honolulu Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii".

A black and white photograph of a baseball player standing on a field. He is wearing a light-colored uniform with "ST. LOUIS" on the front. He is looking towards the camera.



BARNEY
-CASEY
Dietz
+ Falkow
- French
Haughey
+ Hated
+ Head
Higbie
Kahn
+ McList
Molton
Sayles
McKain-VR
Moulden-VR
Smith-VR

Burge-Belling
Gardner
Dartley
Campbell

MULTY-Burles
- Behrman
DeForge
Fontaine
Fulda
Hamil
Jans
Kash
Kohout
Karrt
- Nary
Olson
- Parpe
Marquardt
- Sangle
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- Collins
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- Wilkins
Tethum-VR

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- SE

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- TATUM
Shaw
- KASH
- ROCHETTI
RACKLEY

Beach
Felling
Casper
- SEANT
- KIRBY
- Koway
- Ratched

SEATS
BRANCAUTOLF
DAVIS
- GREESE
- CROCKER
- HAWKAY
- ROY
- KING
- KING
- COMBARDI
- NICHOLS
- PALICH
- RUSOLPH
- ZACKERY
BASINSKI
- BORDAGARY
- BROWN
- DAUGLAS
- GALAN
- HART
- SCHULTZ
- STANKY
- STEVENS
- WHITE
- GORDON
- DURRETT
- GLADU
- OLUND
- CORROD
- POLMA
- ROSEN
- WALKER
- LAGA-YD

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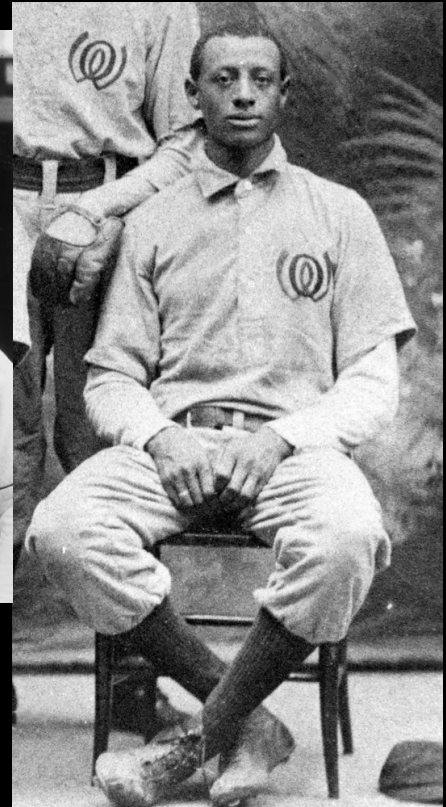
1942: Rickey to Dodgers and his motivations for the great experiment: civic virtue? (53)



El Cheapo Rickey would not gamble on bringing in a stranger Flatbush to succeed Durocher but the \$80,000-a-year Brooklyn president is no dope and he realizes that the popular Dixie Walker would



be an excellent rallying point for all the fans, if and when Durocher knocks himself out with some bedroom, courtroom, bar, apartment, or under-the-stands shenanigans in the future.



"Please tell me why...I spent four mortal hours today conversing with a man named Dizzy Dean." Tygiel, 53

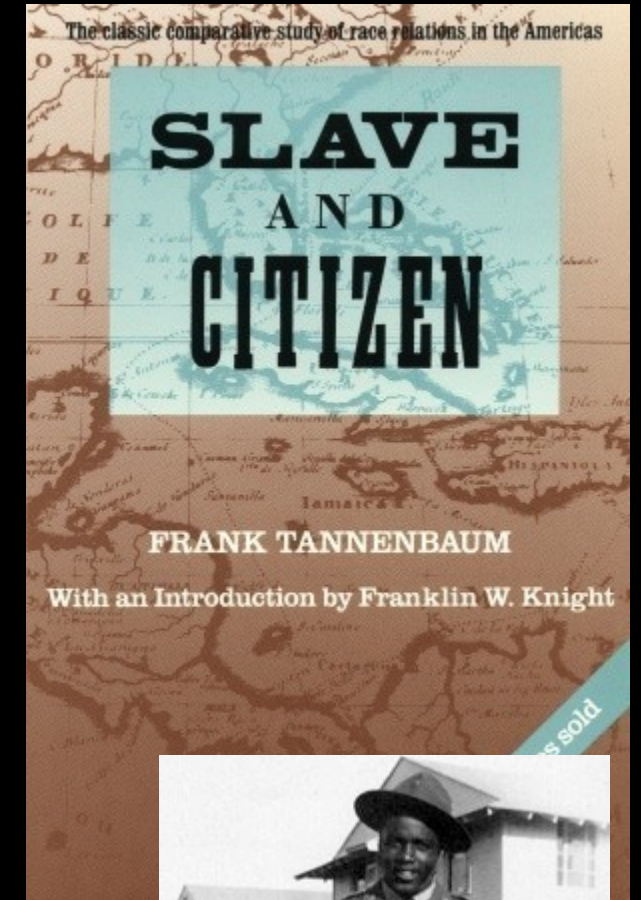


"I've never been sure Rickey didn't do it to knock us out," mused Negro League star Frank Forbes. "We were giving him fits at the gate." Tygiel, 53. At right, Negro League game at Polo Grounds; top right, Charlie Thomas; top left Jimmy Powersm New York *Daily News* columnist

Laying the Groundwork: Rickey's philosophy, his owner, the Mayor's Committee, and "the one"



George V. McLaughlin, of Brooklyn Trust Company and Dodgers' owner; as police commissioner of NYC, he had promoted racial equity



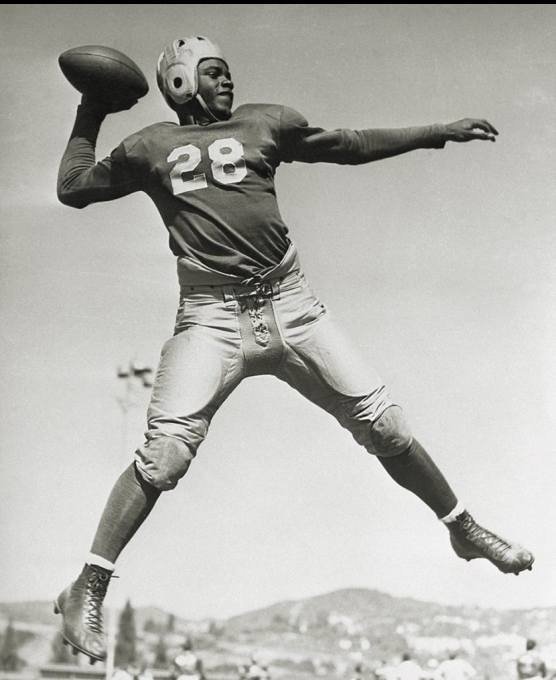
"All I had to do was treat him as a man, a fellow man, treat him as a ballplayer, broadcast the ball."
Barber quoted in Tygiel, 55



"How can a man of worth and human dignity and unsullied personality bend enough?" Rickey quoted in Tygiel, 58. At left, Fiorella LaGuardia who created the Mayor's Committee on Unity.



The One: JR as troublemaker or virtuous citizen?



RECORD OF TRIAL
(Proper)
of
Robinson, Jack R. O-1031586
(Last name) (First name and middle initial) (Army serial No.)
Second Lieutenant, Cavalry Company C, 758th Tank Bn
(Grade) (Organization)
Camp Hood, Texas,
(Station)
By
GENERAL COURT MARTIAL
Appointed by the Commanding ~~Officer~~ General
Headquarters XXIII CORPS
Tried at
d. Texas, 2 August, 1944.



JR's Fort Hood court martial, his college athletics, with Newcombe, and testifying before HUAC in 1949. Called to discredit Paul Robeson's statement that blacks would not fight against the Soviets, JR also spoke for racial equality.

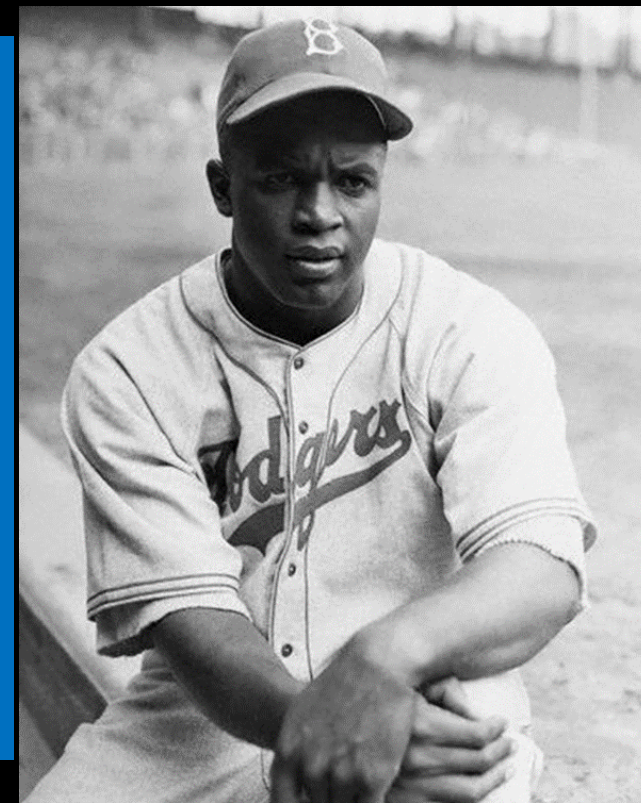
"A victim of prejudice," writes Tygiel, Robinson "reacted vehemently when he perceived a racially-motivated slight. His driving desire for excellent and his keen sense of injustice created an explosive urge. 'He was the kind of man who had to make his presence felt,' says his friend and teammate Don Newcombe. 'He sometimes overdid it. Like a boiler he could not keep it all inside.'" Tygiel, 62.





The Meeting:
nonresistance,
collaboration,
and secrecy

“Robinson possessed, by one description, ‘a sensitive, intelligent face, with strong features, a high forehead, and determined chin.’” One columnist called him “the blackest black man, as well as one of the most handsome, I ever saw.” Tygiel, 66.



Larry McPhail of the Yankees, a foe of integration, left the Mayor’s committee to issue his own report, stirring up controversy and threatening to make the JR signing as forced.



“Mr. Rickey, do you want a ballplayer who’s afraid to fight back,” Robinson asked Rickey. “I want a player with guts enough to not fight back,” Rickey answered. Tygiel, 66

"There comes a time when people get tired. We are here this evening to say to those who have mistreated us so long, that we are tired. Tired of being segregated and humiliated; tired of being kicked about by the brutal feet of oppression. We have no alternative but to protest....our actions must be guided by the deepest principles of our Christian faith. Love must be our regulating ideal. Once again we must hear the words of Jesus echoing across the centuries: 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.' If we fail to do this our protest will end up as a meaningless drama on the stage of history, and its memory will be shrouded with the ugly garments of shame. In spite of the mistreatment that we have confronted we must not become bitter and end up by hating our white brothers. As Booker T. Washington said, 'Let no man pull you so low as to make you hate him.' If you will protest courageously, and yet with dignity and Christian love, when the history books are written in future generations, the historians will have to pause and say, 'There lived a great people - a black people - who injected new meaning and dignity into the veins of civilization.' This is our challenge and our overwhelming responsibility." - Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking extemporaneously during the Montgomery bus boycott, 1955

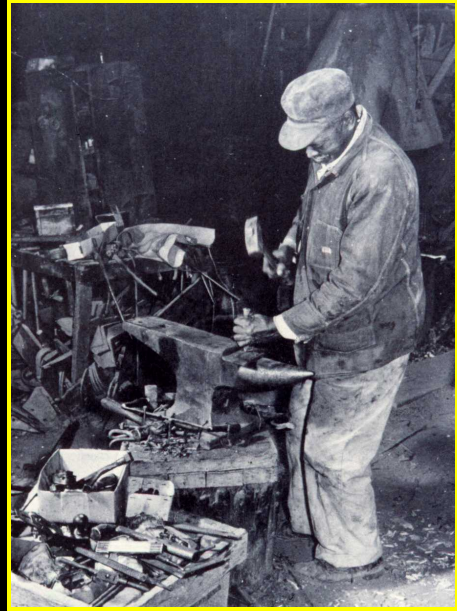
Reinhold Niebuhr and “the spiritual defense against resentment”: "If social cohesion is impossible without coercion, and coercion is impossible without the creation of social injustice, and the destruction of injustice is impossible without the use of further coercion, are we not in an endless cycle of social conflict?"



A Populist and Civic Movement

“Life is to be lived, not controlled, and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat.”

- from Ralph Ellison's
Invisible Man (1952)



The Montreal announcement (10/23/45) and reaction: black-white, North-South, official-unofficial



Pee Wee Reese (76) and Satchel Paige (78)



After Cleveland star Bob Feller doubted the heavily muscled JR could hit an inside pitch, Robinson responded: "I played two games against Feller on the coast last month...but if you lined ten of us [Negroes], I'll bet he couldn't pick me out of the bunch." Tygiel, 76

and Jackie Robinson

NAMED TO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME: Bob Feller, left, and Jackie Robinson

Hall of Fame Voting	
Bob Feller	150
Jackie Robinson	124

Dodgers Give Rise to Roseboro For Lifting Average 38 Points

Key Figures in Case That Opened Door to Colored Players

BRANCH RICKEY, BRANCH RICKEY, JR., JACK ROBINSON, J.L. WILKINSON, TOM BAIRD

MAIN FIGURES IN SIGNING OF JACK ROBINSON - - - WILKINSON, BAIRD CO-OWNERS OF KANSAS CITY MONARCHS

'Guess I'm Just a Guinea Pig,' Says Jack Robinson; Realizes His Responsibilities in Montreal Tryout

By AL FABLEY
Of the Montreal (Que.) Herald

20 Negroes Played in Minors in '37

By AL FABLEY
Of the Montreal (Que.) Herald

Varied Comment of O. B. Writers on Negro's Case

LEAGUE OFFICIALS

Rickey's experiment, *The Sporting News* editorialized, left "the racial problem as far from a satisfactory solution as ever." Tygiel, 74. See also 76.

BASEBALL'S BACK: Check out our new look

APRIL 14, 1947 / \$2.50 (12 IN CAN.)

The Sporting News

MADE: One man, alone by DAVE KINDRED

Remembering a hero by LEONARD COLEMAN

Jackie's first week by STEVE GIETSCHER

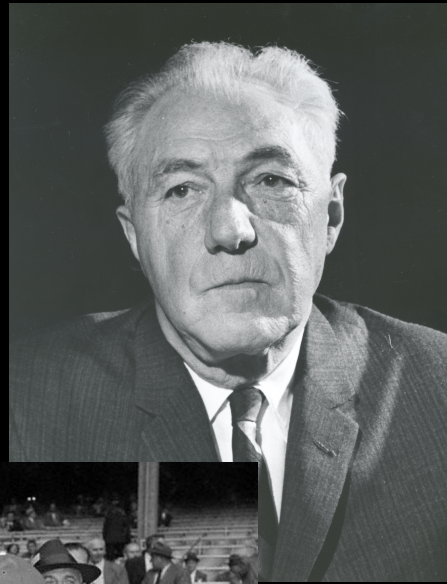
Negro league photo essay by ALBERT DICKSON

'A life is not important, except in the impact it has on other lives.'

—Jackie Robinson

Dodgers

The 1946 report: owners' revolt and Chandler support?



“However well intentioned, the use of Negro players would hazard all the physical properties of baseball.” Secret 1946 report, unanimously endorsed by Rickey’s fellow owners, then carefully collected by NL president Ford Frick.



On Celler hearings and Chandler’s role, see 81-82, 89



“There are few, if any, negro players who could qualify for play in the major leagues at this time. A major league player must have something besides natural ability.” McPhail’s letter to the Mayor’s Commission in 1945. The 1946 “Report of the Major League Steering Committee” (drafted by McPhail) concluded that “Negro attendance in parks such as the Yankee Stadium, the Polo Grounds, and Comiskey Park could conceivably threaten the value of Major League franchises....” Tygiel, 84

The Agony of the Negro Leagues: Raiding vs. the Progress of the Race

Jackie Robinson Opens The Door.....Makes History





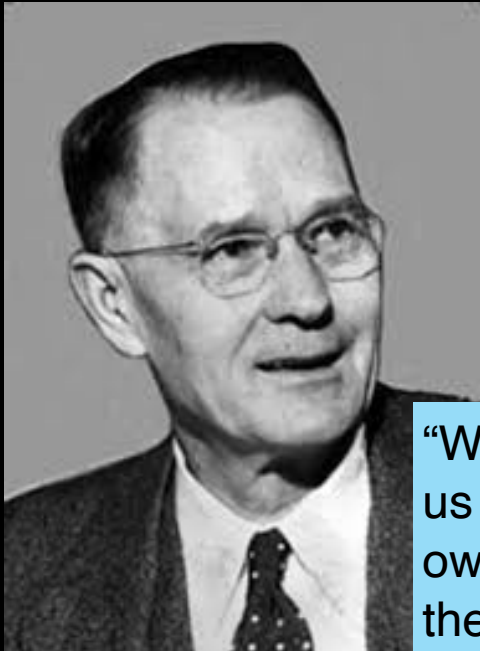
HE OPENED THE DOOR—Jackie Robinson smiling as he returns to the Brooklyn Dodgers clubhouse Sunday after the game with the New York Yankees of the American League. Brooklyn lost 10 to 9 but Robinson has been moved up to number two spot in the batting.

BROOKLYN COACHES WISH HIM WELL—Here Robinson is being welcomed to the Brooklyn Dodgers club by acting manager Clyde Sukeforth. At the left is Coach Blakes, at right is Coach Miller. Photos by Solomon.

JUDGE CONGRATULATES HIM—Samuel Leibowitz, one of the nation's most liberal minded jurists and equity judges, shakes Jackie's hand. See full page of photos on page 12.




Vol. XLIII, No. 1 OFFICE IN PUBLICATION: 1412 N. STATE ST. CHICAGO, ILL. SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1947
 COPYRIGHT 1947 BY ROBERT S. ARBOTH PUBLISHING COMPANY THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS — PART ONE



“I failed to find a single player under uniform contract and I learned that all players of all teams became free agents at the end of the season....”Rickey quoted in Tygiel, 87

“We won’t take it lying down...Robinson signed a contract with us last year and I feel he is our property.” Tom Baird, part-owner of KC Monarchs (reputed to have been a member of the KKK). Tygiel, 86. Article at right from Alabama Tribune, 1948

The Negro League owners are “as selfish as any plantation owner....” Chicago Defender editorial, quoted in Tygiel, 88




BITTERSWEET GOODBYE
 THE BLACK BARONS, THE GRAYS, AND THE 1948 NEGRO LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

EDITED BY FREDERICK C. BUSH AND BILL NOWLIN
 ASSOCIATE EDITORS: CARL RIECHERS AND LEN LEVIN

Negro Baseball Owners Flay Branch Rickey

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Owners in the Negro American league scored Branch Rickey Sr., president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, in their two-day schedule meeting at the Hotel Grand. Rickey was the target for having deliberately signed Jackie Robinson in the fall of 1946 without consulting the owners of the Kansas City Monarchs who claimed Robinson as their property.

Tom Baird of Kansas City, Kan. now sole owner of the Negro club, expressed his surprise at Rickey's failure to be "gentleman enough to answer his correspondence."

property of the Negro National league clubs.

Rickey paid a reported \$1,000 for Roy Partlow, pitcher on the Philadelphia Stars. He has since been released. Near the season's end, Rickey bought the contract of Dan Bankhead pitcher on the Memphis Red Sox. He signed Sammy Gee, Detroit Negro high school player, last summer for one of his farm teams.

The St. Louis Browns signed Willard Brown, outfielder, and Henry Thompson, infielder of the Kansas City Monarchs after con-



$$\left(\frac{H+BB+HP}{AB+BB+HP} + \frac{3(TB-H)}{4AB} + \frac{R}{H+BB+HP} \right) -$$

RICKEY EXPLAINS HIS EQUATION, in which the first cluster of symbols stands for offense, the second for defense, and G (for game)

GOODBY TO

'The Brain' of the game unveils formula

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The formula, for I so designate it, is what mathematicians call a simple, additive equation:

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that statistically disproves cherished myths and demonstrates what really wins

by BRANCH RICKEY

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What Johnny Whosit hit

THERE are people who pride themselves on their ability to quote what Johnny Whosit hit the year of the big flood. Among fans it is the accepted standard of excellence at bat. Why? Principally because it is easy to figure. Even the professionals lean upon it. But batting average is only a partial means of determining a man's effectiveness on offense. It neglects a major factor, the base on balls, which is reflected only negatively in the batting average (by not counting it as a time at bat). Actually walks are extremely important,

months ago if the development of such a formula was possible, I expressed serious doubts. In the past little effort and almost no thought has been spent on separating the basic elements of baseball and giving them a relative value. Mr. Connie Mack was once quoted as saying that pitching was 70% of the game. My own feeling, before compiling and examining any evidence, was that pitching was at least 50% of the game. I considered it baseball's most important single department. Give me four superb starting pitchers—Christy Mathewson, Cy Young, Walter Johnson and Dizzy Dean—and I felt I could win a pennant with Humpty Dumpty at every other position. George Weiss, general manager of the New York Yankees and a man whose opinion I respect, put pitching at about 35% of the game.

What were the facts? To help assemble data that would lead to facts I brought in Allan Roth, who prepares and refines statistics for the Brooklyn Dodgers and who, in my opinion, is the top statistical specialist in baseball.

The problem had to be approached cautiously. It became apparent after several false and frustrating starts that baseball statistics were indeed puzzling. They tried men's patience. Only after reverting to bare ABC's was any progress noted. We knew, of course, that all baseball was divided into two parts—offense and defense. We concluded further that weakness or strength in either of these departments could be measured in terms of runs. Thus offense was equal to the number of runs scored by a team and defense was equal to the number of runs scored against it. It was the only practical way to figure it. These were facts.

The next step was to find out how to use them. Perhaps, by taking the runs scored per game by major league clubs over an entire season and measuring them against opponents' runs, some pattern could be determined. We compiled these figures for both major leagues for





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