

Formation of the Negro American League

On October 10, 1936 several baseball executives met in Indianapolis, Indiana to discuss the possibility of forming a “new” league to rival the Negro National League. The meeting was held at the YMCA on Senate Avenue in Indianapolis.

Baseball executives who attended the meeting in Indianapolis were:

Executive	Team
A.M. Walker	Birmingham Black Barons
H.G. Hall	Chicago American Giants
DeHart Hubbard	Cincinnati Tigers
A.G. Titus	Detroit
Joseph Johnson	Indianapolis
G.C. Watkins	Indianapolis
J.L. Wilkinson	Kansas City Monarchs
Dr. B.B. Martin	Memphis Red Sox
Dizzy Dismukes	St. Louis

The Indianapolis Recorder reported on the meeting in their October 17, 1936 edition.

The meeting held in Indianapolis was so positive that on February 20 and 21, 1937 a follow-up meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois to form the Negro American League.

Baseball executives who attended the meeting in Chicago were:

Executive	Team
A.M. Walker	Birmingham Black Barons
H.G. Hall	Chicago American Giants
James Titus	Detroit Stars
G.C. Watkins	Indianapolis Athletics
J.L. Wilkinson	Kansas City Monarchs
Dr. B.B. Martin	Memphis Red Sox
Henry L. Moore	St. Louis Stars

Also attending the meeting were Robert R. Jackson, Al Monroe (sportswriter) and Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (player/manager).

Robert R. Jackson was elected as the Negro American League President and Al Monroe was elected as Negro American League Secretary at the two day meeting in Chicago.

DeHart Hubbard has been given the credit for doing most of the organizational work for the “league” and writing the Negro American League constitution.

Baseball Season Will Open May 8

CHICAGO—The final meeting of the Negro American League closed one of the biggest sessions of the season here Sunday. President R. R. Jackson said: "We have the largest cities in this section lined up with paid franchises, and they have some fine players and managers who will see that the fans are given the best."

The cities lined up are Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Memphis and Birmingham. Managers are: Jim Taylor, Chicago; Dimples Miller, Detroit; Homer Curry, Memphis; Double Duty Radcliffe, Cincinnati; Sam Crawford, Indianapolis; Dizzy Dismukes, St. Louis; A. M. Walker, Birmingham; and Andy Cooper, Kansas City.

Season Opens May 8

The official league season opens May 8 with Chicago at Memphis, Detroit at Cincinnati and Birmingham host to Kansas City. However, two series will be played earlier because northern teams will be in the southland and must get their sectional games in while in that territory.

The president ordered all clubs to post forfeit money to guarantee good faith and to assure the fans that no combats will be cancelled at any time. In case of cancellation the team breaking said contract will be subjected to rigid punishment.

The meeting was arranged mainly to set up a regular playing schedule. The league agreed to play a split season, closing the first half July 5. The plan calls further for the winner of the first half to play the second half winner for the championship.

Trades Are Made

Several player trades were made during the meet, one of which sent Double Duty Radcliffe from Indianapolis to Cincinnati for a pitcher and another player

yet to be chosen. The American Giants also entered the trading market: Thomas, a steady twirler, to Detroit for an infielder yet to be selected.

Those present at the meeting were: John L. Wilkerson, Kansas City; A. M. Walker, Birmingham; Dr. B. B. Martin, Memphis; H. G. Hall, Chicago; James Titus, Detroit; G. C. Watkins, Indianapolis; Henry L. Moore, St. Louis; and Double Duty Radcliffe, who represented the owners of the Cincinnati nine, as owners. The president, Major R. R. Jackson, Al Monroe, secretary, and a number of ball players and managers were on hand also.

The schedule:

April 21, 25, 26
Chicago at Birmingham
May 1, 3, 4
Kansas City at Memphis
Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Birmingham open
May 8, 9, 10
Detroit at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Birmingham
St. Louis at Indianapolis
May 9, 10, 11
Chicago at Memphis
May 15, 16, 17
Chicago at Kansas City
Cincinnati at Detroit
Indianapolis at Memphis
St. Louis at Birmingham
May 22, 23, 24
Birmingham at Chicago
Indianapolis at Detroit
St. Louis at Memphis
Kansas City and Cincinnati open
May 29, 30, 31
Memphis at Chicago
Birmingham at Kansas City
Detroit at St. Louis
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
June 5, 6, 7
St. Louis at Chicago
Detroit at Birmingham
Kansas City at Cincinnati
Memphis at Indianapolis
June 17, 18, 14
Kansas City at Indianapolis
Chicago at Cincinnati
Birmingham at St. Louis
Detroit at Memphis
June 20, 21, 22
Cincinnati at Chicago
Birmingham at Memphis
Indianapolis, Detroit open
St. Louis at Kansas City
June 26, 27, 28
Cincinnati at Birmingham
Chicago at Detroit
Indianapolis at St. Louis
Memphis at Kansas City
July 3, 4, 5
Kansas City at Chicago
Cincinnati at Memphis
St. Louis at Detroit
Indianapolis at Birmingham

The Negro American League season opened on May 8th and was split into two halves.

The teams that competed in the inaugural season of the Negro American League and the final order of standing were as follows:

1937	Manager	Games	Record	Pct.
Kansas City Monarchs	Andy Cooper	27	19-8	.704
Chicago American Giants	Candy Jim Taylor	26	18-8	.692
Cincinnati Tigers	Ted Radcliffe	26	15-11	.577
Memphis Red Sox	Homer "Goose" Curry	26	13-13	.500
Detroit Stars	Dimples Miller	27	12-15	.444
Birmingham Black Barons	A.M. Walker	27	10-17	.370
Indianapolis Athletics	Sam Crawford	27	9-18	.333
St. Louis Stars	Dizzy Dismukes	27	5-22	.185

Note: Records are for the first half of the season only. The Kansas City Monarchs won both halves of the season and then beat the Chicago American Giants in a special post season Play-Off Series when the American Giants disputed the Monarchs being awarded the Negro American League title. Kansas City won the five game series 3 games to 1 (one game ended in a 2-2 tie).