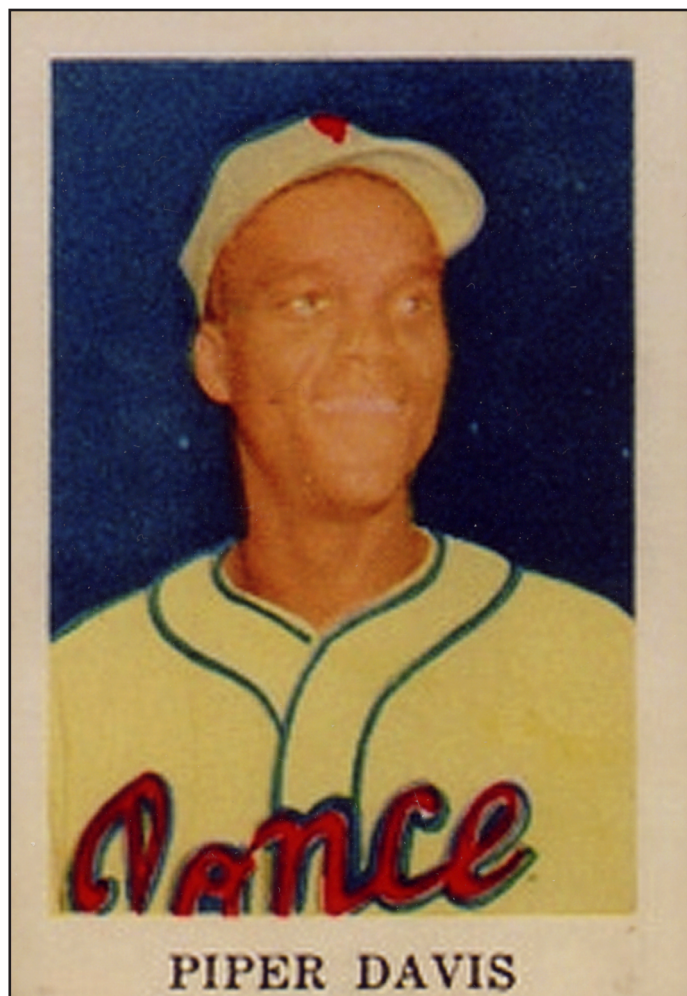


**Forgotten Heroes:**  
**Lorenzo “Piper” Davis**



**by**

**Center for Negro League Baseball Research**

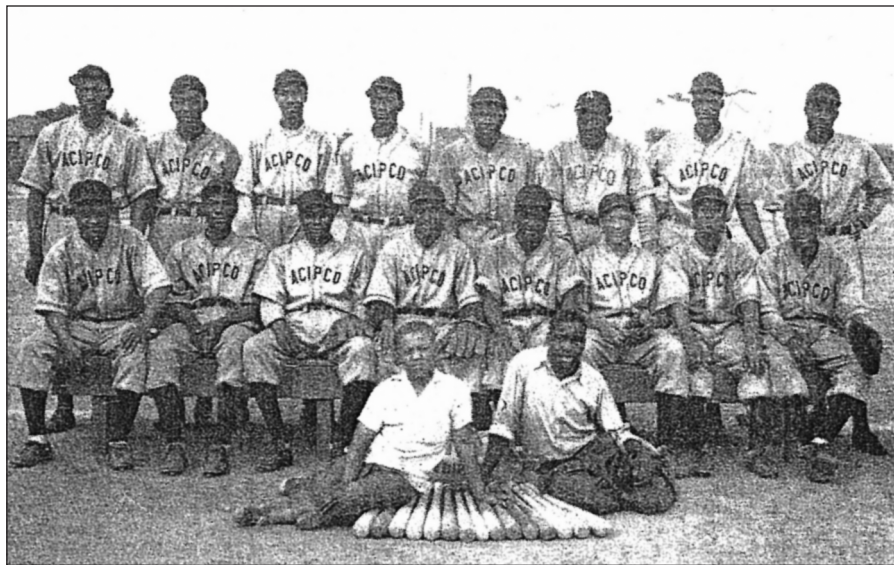
**Dr. Layton Revel**

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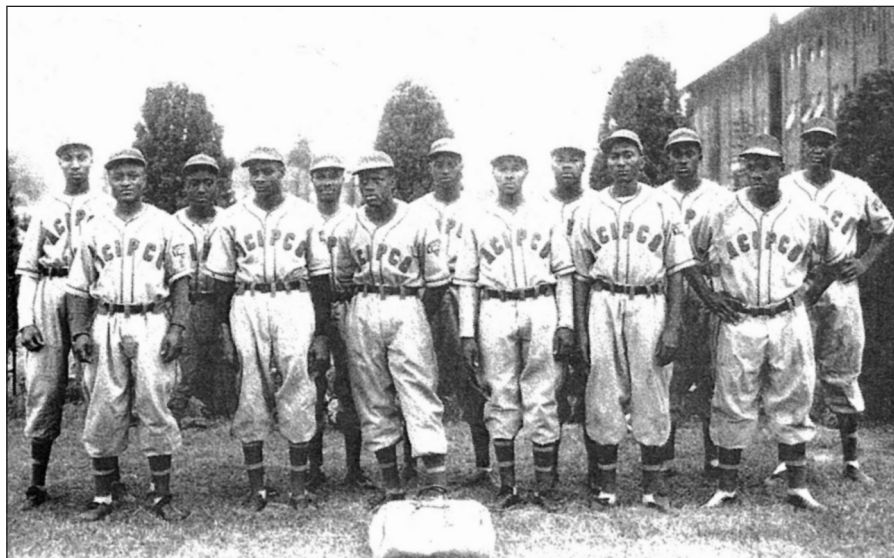
**Luis Munoz**



**ACIPCO (1939)**  
(Piper – back row fifth from left)



**ACIPCO (1940)**  
(Piper - back row second from right)



**ACIPCO (1941)**  
(Piper- back row first on right)

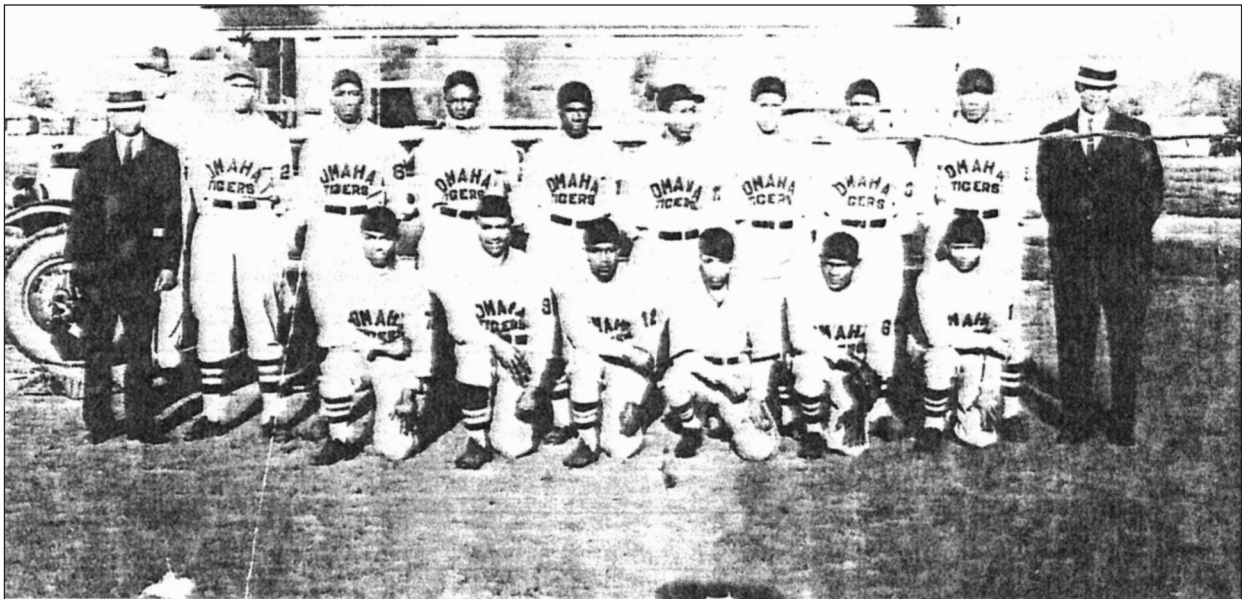


Lorenzo “Piper” Davis was born on July 3, 1917 in the small coal mining town of Piper, Alabama. His father John was a miner for the Piper Mining Company. Lorenzo grew up in Piper with his father, mother (Georgia) and eight brothers and sisters. Piper, Alabama didn’t have a high school, so Lorenzo attended high school in nearby Fairfield. Lorenzo was a natural athlete. At Interurban Heights High School he excelled at both baseball and basketball. His basketball skills were so strong that he was awarded a college basketball scholarship to Alabama State Teachers College in Montgomery, Alabama. Unfortunately, Davis was forced to leave college after only one year because of financial reasons. When Lorenzo returned home from college, he went to work in the mines in Piper, Alabama.

Davis was a tall, lanky ball player who stood six feet three inches tall and weighed 188 pounds. He hit from the right hand side of the plate and threw right handed. He was skilled as both a fielder and hitter. He was an extremely versatile player who could play any position on the field. Over his career he played first base, second base, shortstop, third base and outfield. He was an excellent fielder with outstanding hands and an accurate arm. Piper played each position in the field equally well. At the plate he hit for both power and average. Piper is considered one of the top players in the Negro Leagues during the 1940’s.

### **Early Baseball Career**

Piper began his professional baseball career when he toured the Midwest with the Omaha Tigers during their 1935 barnstorming season. Lorenzo returned to play for the Tigers in 1936.

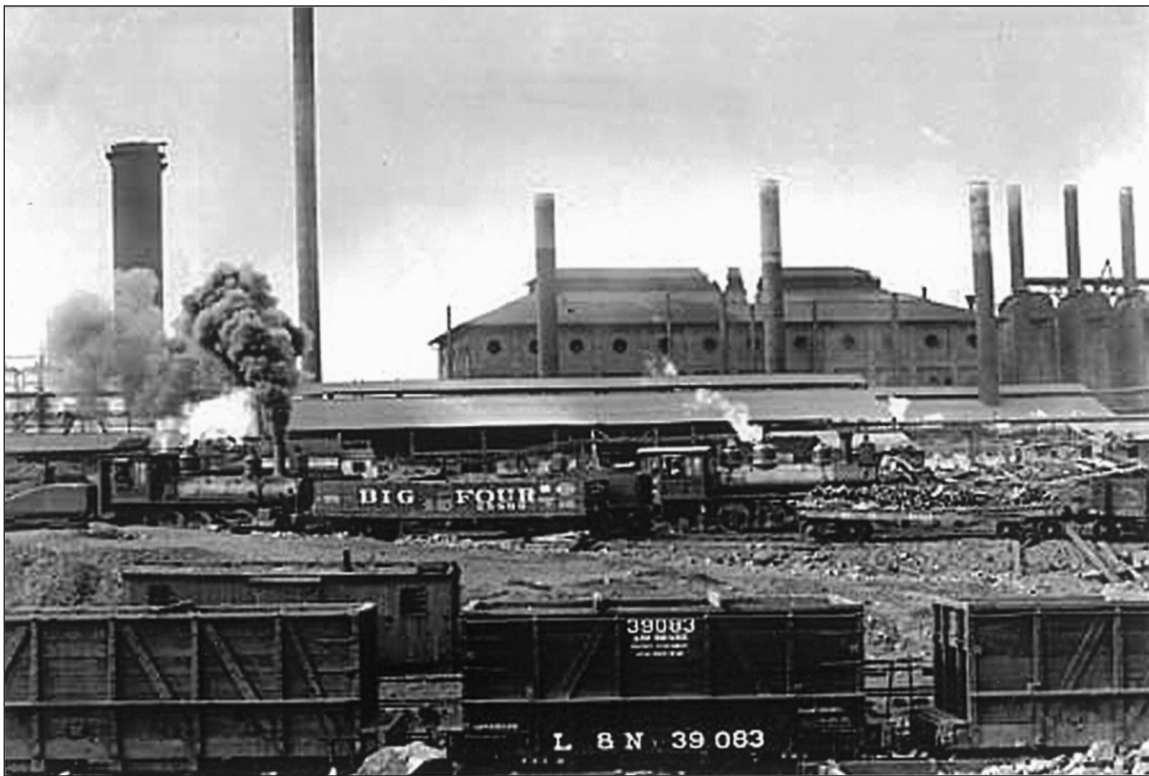


**Omaha Tigers (1936)**  
(Piper – back row second from left)

After his second season with the Tigers, Piper returned to Birmingham and went to work for the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company at their Fairfield plant. He also played for their baseball team until he went to Yakima to play for the Yakima Indians in 1938. The Yakima Indians were an independent team based in Yakima, Washington. During the 1930’s they barnstormed throughout the Northwest.



**ACIPCO Plant (c. 1930's)**  
Birmingham, Alabama



**ACIPCO Plant (c. 1930's)**  
Birmingham, Alabama

## Birmingham Industrial League Career

In 1939 Piper was recruited to work at American Cast Iron Pipe Company (ACIPCO) in Birmingham so he could play on their baseball team in the Birmingham Industrial League (BIL). ACIPCO already had a very powerful team and were a dominant force in the Birmingham Industrial League before Lorenzo joined them. The ACIPCO Pipemen had won eight league championships in nine years from 1928 to 1936 before Piper joined the team in 1939. The highlight of the ACIPCO teams from this period was the 1935 squad that compiled an amazing record of 83-5. ACIPCO played their home games at Sloss Field in Birmingham. Industrial League baseball was extremely popular in Birmingham and it was not uncommon for a key game to draw 10,000 to 12,000 fans especially if ACIPCO was playing their arch rival Stockham Valves and Fittings. Piper excelled on the baseball diamond and soon became one of the team's leading hitters as their starting first baseman.



**ACIPCO (1939)**  
(Piper front row first on right)

After two second place finishes in 1937 and 1938, ACIPCO returned to its championship form for the 1939 season. The Pipemen won the league championship over strong rival teams from Stockham, Bessemer and Perfection Mattress. Piper had a spectacular year in his first season in the Birmingham Industrial League. Powered by the strong hitting of Piper (.450) and Artie Wilson (.411), the Pipemen dominated play in the league. With his .450 batting average, Piper won the Birmingham Industrial League batting championship.

Behind a strong team that included future Negro League players Lorenzo "Piper" Davis, Gread Mc Kinnis, William Powell, "Big" Ed Steele and Artie Wilson, the 1940 ACIPCO team won its second straight Birmingham Industrial League championship. Piper continued his hot hitting and strong play at first base for ACIPCO in 1940. He finished the season with a .388 batting average.

ACIPCO won its third straight Birmingham Industrial League championship in 1941. Lorenzo had another good year at the plate as he hit .352 for the season. When World War II started, Lorenzo received a physical deferment from serving in the military. He continued working at ACIPCO and playing baseball.





**Piper Hits Homerun at Sloss Field (1940)**

One of the many highlights of Piper's career with ACIPCO in the Birmingham Industrial League (BIL) came in 1942 when he helped lead ACIPCO to a BIL championship with an amazing 49-1 record. During the course of the season ACIPCO won an unprecedented 32 consecutive ball games. What made this season even more remarkable was that Stockham and U.S. Steel also had powerhouse teams and at the beginning of the season, both were picked above ACIPCO to win the league title. Piper had an outstanding season at the plate with a league leading 14 homeruns and a .452 batting average. Besides Piper ACIPCO had three other starters on the team that also hit over .400 for the season – Artie Wilson (.476), Ed Steele (.470 with 11 homeruns) and Waldo Dudley (.411 with 6 homeruns). Nathaniel Pollard (20-1 with 12 shutouts) and Harry Simpson (13-0 with 4 shutouts) anchored the pitching staff.



**ACIPCO (1942)**  
(Piper – back row third from left)

When the 1943 season started, the ACIPCO Pipemen picked right up where they had left off at the end of the 1942 season. ACIPCO finished the season with a record of 47-4 and won their fifth straight Birmingham Industrial League championship. Piper only played in a limited number of games during the 1943 season because he had signed with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League in late 1942. In his 17 official plate appearances for ACIPCO he collected 7 hits for a .412 batting average. Besides Piper there were five other players on the team that would go on to play in the Negro Leagues: Artie Wilson (.559), Ed Steele (.435), Herman Bell (.333), Sam Hairston (.313) and Nate Pollard (16-0). Other players that starred for ACIPCO during the 1943 season included: Waldo Dudley (.386), Earl Little (.377 and 13-0 pitching record), Jim Williams (.326) and Harry Simpson (7-1).

Davis played five seasons with ACIPCO from 1939 to 1943 before signing with the Birmingham Black Barons to play in the Negro American League in 1942. Over his career in the Birmingham Industrial League he hit over .400 three times and finished with a .410 lifetime batting average in his Birmingham Industrial League career. Behind his strong play at first base and his incredible hitting, he helped lead ACIPCO to five straight Birmingham Industrial League championships from 1939 to 1943. Piper's career statistics while playing for the ACIPCO Pipemen of the Birmingham Industrial League are:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1939	ACIPCO	-	100	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	.450	-
1940	ACIPCO	-	103	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	.388	-
1941	ACIPCO	-	125	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	.352	-
1942	ACIPCO	-	126	-	57	-	-	14	-	-	.452	-
1943	ACIPCO	-	17	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	.412	-
	Total	-	471	-	193	-	-	14	-	-	.410	-

### Negro League Career

Piper's play for ACIPCO in the Birmingham Industrial League got him recognized by the Negro Leagues. In late 1942 Wingfield Welch, manager of the Birmingham Black Barons, offered Lorenzo \$ 5.00 per game or \$ 7.50 for a double header to play part time with the Black Barons. It was an easy decision for Davis because he was only making \$ 3.36 per day working for ACIPCO. Lorenzo signed with his home team the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League. It appears he only played in a couple of "league" games right at the end of 1942.

When the 1943 Negro American League season opened, Piper had made the roster for the Birmingham Black Barons and was given a full time contract. The Black Barons were already a powerhouse in Negro League baseball. Their roster included: Lyman Bostock (.412), Tommy Sampson (.358), Lester Lockett (.388), Felix McLaurin (.406), "Big" Ed Steele and John Markham (7-2). In his first full season with Birmingham, Piper established himself as the team's starting shortstop. Piper got 57 official plate appearances for the season and responded with 22 hits for a .386 batting average. Even though he had a limited number of official at bats, Piper showed he could hit for both average and power. Half of his 22 total hits went for extra bases and Lorenzo finished the season with a .632 slugging percentage. The Black Barons finished the regular Negro American League season in first place.



**Birmingham Black Barons (1946)**  
(Piper – back row first on right)





**Birmingham Black Barons (1946)**  
(Piper – back row first on right)



**Birmingham Black Barons (1948)**  
(Piper – eighth from left)



**Birmingham Black Barons – Negro League World Series Champions (1948)**  
(Piper – middle row fourth from left)



The Black Barons faced the Chicago American Giants for the 1943 Negro American League championship at the end of the regular season. With the series tied at two games apiece, Piper was the hero of game five when he scored the winning run on a sacrifice fly by Leonard Lindsay. The Birmingham Black Barons played the Homestead Grays (Negro National League champions) in the Negro League World Series. The 1943 World Series was played in seven different cities: Washington, D.C. (games one and three), Baltimore, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Birmingham and Montgomery. There were actually eight games played. The reason for the extra game was that game two that was played in Baltimore ended in a 5-5 tie. The Black Barons and Grays proved evenly matched with neither team being able to establish a dominate edge. The Grays finally proved victorious and were crowned Negro League champions as they won the deciding game of the series by a score of 8-4.

After the 1943 Negro American League season, Piper went to California to play winter ball. Davis along with Chet Brewer, Lou Dials, Biz Mackey, Nate Moreland and Kenny Washington played for the Negro League All Stars baseball team. The Negro League All Stars played an independent barnstorming schedule on the West Coast over the winter of 1943-44. Their primary opponent on the barnstorming tour was Alan Lane's Major League All Stars. Lane's team included Major League players: Johnny Lindell, Peanuts Lowery, George Metkovich, Jerry Priddy, Vern Stephens and Al Zarilla. Some of the other teams that they played against on their West Coast tour included: Kansas City Royals, Pirrone's All Stars, Feistner's Major All Stars, Western Pipe & Steel Boilers and Long Beach All Stars. Even though records and newspaper accounts are somewhat sketchy it appears the Negro League All Stars had a very successful tour playing against local clubs and other traveling all star teams.

When the Black Barons added shortstop, Artie Wilson, to their roster prior to the 1944 season, Lorenzo divided his time between first base and second base. During the 1944 season, the Birmingham Black Barons had six players in their starting line-up that hit over .300: Artie Wilson (.346), Leandy Young (.341), John Scott (.327), Johnny Britton (.324), Lorenzo "Piper" Davis (.308) and "Big" Ed Steele (.303). The Black Barons' pitching staff was anchored by Alfred Saylor, the Negro American League's leading pitcher, with a 14-5 record on the mound. With this strong lineup the Birmingham Black Barons won their second straight Negro American League championship by finishing the regular season with a 48-22 (.686) record.



**Birmingham Black Barons (1944)**  
(Piper – middle row first on right)



**Lorenzo "Piper" Davis**  
Birmingham Black Barons (1942-1950)

As the champions of the Negro American League, the Birmingham Black Barons met the Homestead Grays who were champions of the Negro National League in the Negro League World Series. Unfortunately for the Black Barons, they were dealt a serious blow that would affect the outcome of the series before it ever began. Several days before the first game was scheduled to be played on September 17, 1944 five members of the starting line-up for the Black Barons (Pepper Bassett, Johnny Britton, Tommy Sampson, Artie Wilson and Leandy Young) were involved in a serious automobile accident. As a result of the accident Bassett, Sampson and Young missed the Negro League World Series altogether. Britton played with a patch over one eye and Wilson played but was severely limited in his performance. The Homestead Grays easily won the series by a count of 4 games to 1.



**“Big” Ed Steele, Lorenzo “Piper” Davis and Artie Wilson**

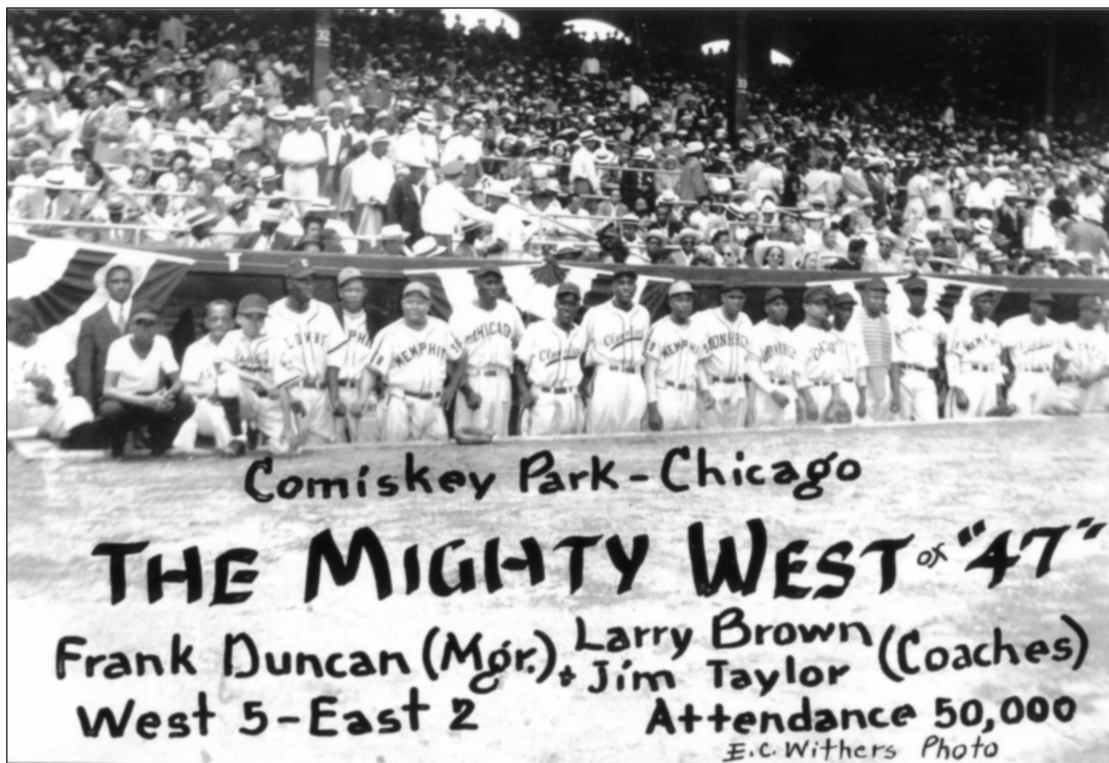
When the Negro League World Series had concluded, the Birmingham Black Barons traveled to California to play in Joe Pirrone’s California Winter League. The league was made up of two white teams (Service All Stars and Naval Dry Dock) and two black clubs (Birmingham Black Barons and Kansas City Royals). Pirrone would always invite at least one black club to play in his league every season. The idea behind a black team in the league was to raise the level of competition and increase the fan base coming to the ball park. The Service All Stars and Naval Dry Dock teams were not your typical local sand lot clubs. Both teams were loaded with Major League and Minor League players. The Service All Stars included: Babe Dahlgren, Harry Danning, Vince Di Maggio and Peanuts Lowery. Irish Muesel headed up the Naval Dry Dock squad. Chet Brewer had recruited: Pepper Bassett, Ray Dandridge, Biz Mackey, Nate Moreland, Bonnie Serrell, Theo Smith, Willie Wells, Jesse “Batman” Williams and Wild Bill Wright to play for the Kansas City Royals. The Black Barons added Sam Bankhead, James “Cool Pappa” Bell, Booker Mc Daniel and Harry Williams to their winter league roster. At the end of



Piper Davis – Negro League All Star



East West All Star Game (1946)  
 (Piper – back row sixth from right)

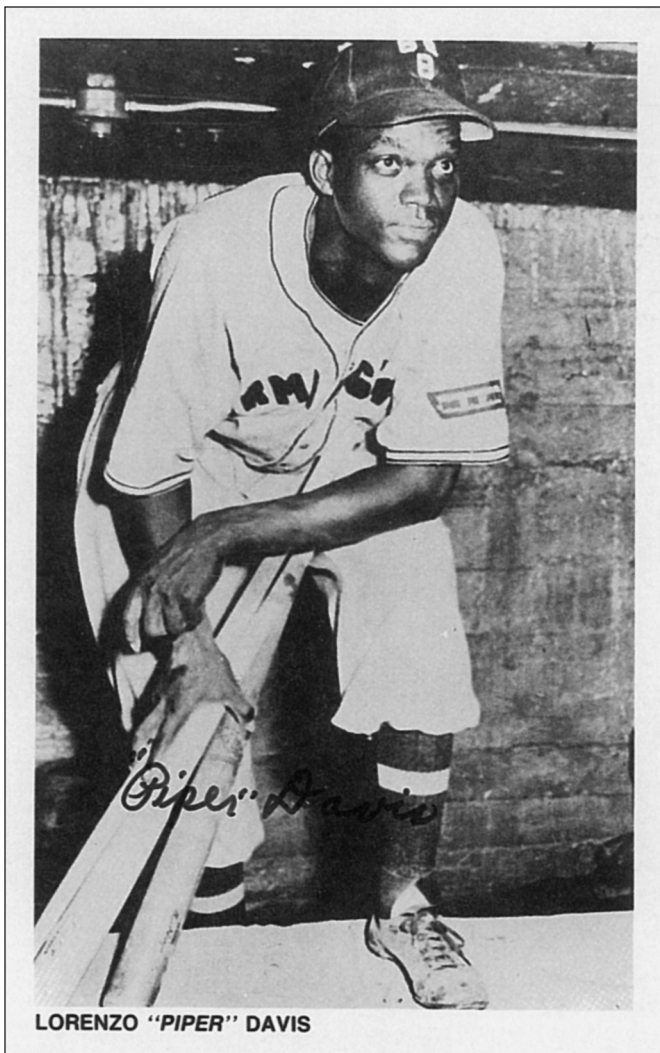


East West All Star Game (1947)  
 (Piper – fourth from right)

the season, the Birmingham Black Barons were recognized as the champions of the 1944-45 California Winter League season.

Piper returned to the Black Barons for the 1945 Negro American League season as their starting first baseman. Lorenzo had another good season as he batted .313 for the year. The Birmingham Black Barons finished in second place in the Negro American League standings with a 39-30 record behind the champion Cleveland Buckeyes (53-16).

Like the previous two winters, Lorenzo returned to California to play winter baseball. The 1945 winter league season was shortened and it appears that league play was over by Christmas. While records of the season have yet to be uncovered, we do know that Piper had such a good season that he was named to the California Winter League All Star team as their starting second baseman at the end of the year. When the 1945 California Winter League season was cancelled, the Black Barons stayed in California and barnstormed against local teams like Bill Raimondi's All Stars.



**Birmingham Black Barons**

Like the previous year, Piper was selected to play in both East West All Star games (game one played at Comiskey Park and game two played at the Polo Grounds in New York) during the 1947 season. It was at the 1947 East West All Star game that Major League Baseball scouts were

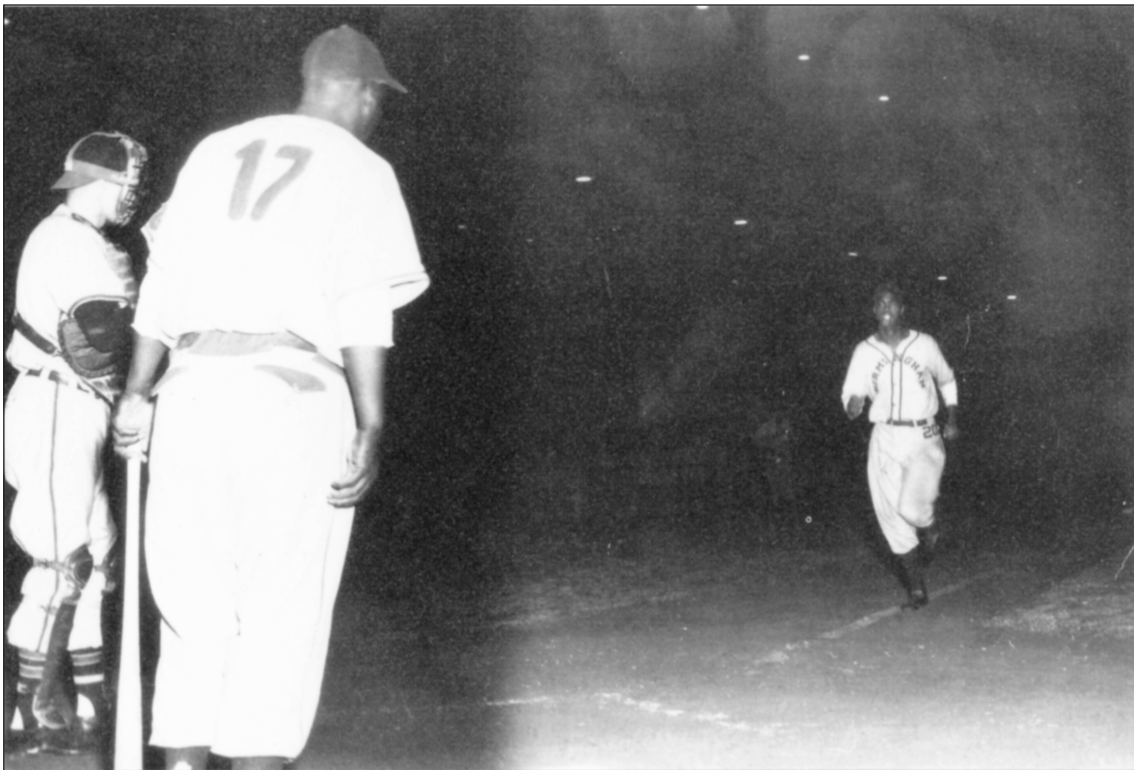
In 1946 the Birmingham Black Barons finished in second place again for the second straight year, this time with a 35-25 (.583) record. The Kansas City Monarchs won the Negro American League title with a record of 43-14 (.754). In 1946 Piper was selected to play in his first East West All Star game. He played in both East West All Star games during the 1946 season and collected three hits in seven official at bats for a .429 average. He also drove in two runs.

In the late fall of 1946, Abe Saperstein who owned the Harlem Globetrotters baseball and basketball teams organized a new team that played a barnstorming schedule in Hawaii. The new team was called "Abe Saperstein's Negro All Stars." Besides Piper Davis the team included the following Negro League players: Dan Bankhead, Mike Berry, Sherwood Brewer, Luke Easter, Paul Hardy, Herb Simpson and Goose Tatum. The Negro All Stars had an extremely successful tour and at one point won thirteen consecutive ball games.

The 1947 Negro American League season was Lorenzo's fifth full season with the Birmingham Black Barons. He had another great season at the plate with a .360 average. Piper finished among the leaders for the Negro American League batting title finishing behind John Ritchey who led the league with a .381 batting average. The Black Barons had a mediocre year as a team and finished in third place in the Negro American League standings with a 34-26 record.

scouting eight Negro League players (Dan Bankhead, Piper Davis, Luis Marquez, Minnie Minoso, Gentry Jessup, Sam Jethroe, Goose Tatum and Artie Wilson) for potential signing.

After the 1947 Negro League season had concluded, Piper was recruited by Chet Brewer to play for his Kansas City Royals on their California exhibition tour. While on the West Coast, Piper also played for Chet Brewer in two barnstorming series against Major League all star teams. The Chet Brewer's All Stars played the Bob Feller All Stars and another series against the Ewell Blackwell All Stars. Chet Brewer's All Stars included the following Negro League stars: Lorenzo Davis, Joe Greene, Buster Haywood, Jimmy Newberry, Chico Renfroe, Satchel Paige, "Big" Ed Steele, Goose Tatum and Jesse Williams. After dropping the first two games of the series by identical scores of 2-1, the Chet Brewer All Stars came back and won the next four in a row to defeat the Major League squads of Feller and Blackwell by winning four of the final six games. Satchel Paige and Jimmy Newberry were the pitching stars each winning two games. Piper was the hitting star for Chet's team by collecting six hits (including homeruns in games one and six) in 20 plate appearances for a .300 batting average.

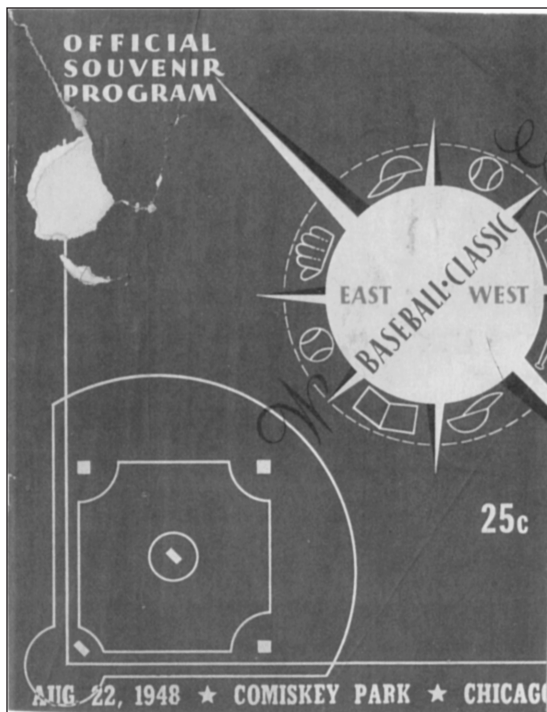


**Piper Hits Game Winning Homerun off Major Leaguer Ed Lopat in California (1947)**

Prior to the 1948 season, Tom Hayes (owner of the Birmingham Black Barons) made a managerial change and hired Piper as the player-manager of the team. Piper proved to be an excellent manager. He had a commanding presence and was a good teacher. In a newspaper interview that William Greason gave to the Birmingham News, Greason provided the following insight into Piper's managerial presence:

“He was one of the greatest managers I ever played for. He was smart, firm and yet gentle. He got along with the players, but he was a disciplinarian. He had some older fellows on the team, and many times older fellows don't want to listen, but he had a way of getting to them. He sought to instill some character in us. We had one of the finest teams in the league as far as character.”





The Birmingham Black Barons and Piper Davis both had remarkable seasons in 1948. Piper hit .353 for the season and was again among the leaders in the Negro American League batting race. The Negro American League batting championship was won by fellow teammate Artie Wilson who hit .402. Wilson's legendary season was the last time a player has hit .400 at a top level league. Behind the hot hitting of Wilson and Davis, the Black Barons easily won the Negro American League championship with a 57-21 (.731) record. It was also during the 1948 season that the Black Barons signed a sixteen year old high school student from Fairfield (AL) by the name of Willie Mays. Under Piper's guidance and development for the next three seasons with the Black Barons, Mays honed his baseball skills on the way to becoming one of the best centerfielders of all time and a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

For his outstanding play during 1948, Piper was selected to play in both East West All Star games. This was the third straight year that he played in both East West All Star games.



**East West All Star Game (1948)**  
(Piper – back row, sixth from right)

The Birmingham Black Barons faced the Kansas City Monarchs to determine who would represent the Negro American League in the 1948 Negro League World Series. In game one Piper Davis collected four hits and Artie Wilson had three hits as they paced the Black Barons to a 5-4 victory. When the series was concluded the Black Barons had won four games to the Kansas City Monarchs three games and moved on to the Negro League World Series to face the Homestead Grays. In the Negro League World Series which started on September 26, 1948, the Black Barons could manage only one victory, while dropping four. Like in 1944 when the Black Barons faced the Homestead Grays, the Grays were crowned Negro League World Series champions.





## Piper Signs with Organized Baseball

In 1945 Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers brought all of his top scouts (George Sisler, Wid Matthews, Tom Greenwade and Clyde Sukeforth) together and asked them to start secretly scouting Negro League ball players. Rickey's story was that he was going to field a Negro League team that could play in Ebbetts Field when the Dodgers were out of town. The Dodgers also hired Negro League great Oscar Charleston to scout and provide detailed background information on all the top players. After the scouting efforts were completed, Brooklyn had put together a list of who they considered the top Negro League players with Major League talent. Rickey's plan was to sign a younger player. Rickey wasn't interested in signing an established star like Josh Gibson or Satchel Paige. From Rickey's perspective a young unproven player would have less pressure on himself and the team. Lorenzo "Piper" Davis was one of the players on the final scouting list that the Dodgers compiled. Other players on the list besides Davis were:

Player	Negro League Team	Player	Negro League Team
Dan Bankhead	Memphis Red Sox	Monte Irvin	Newark Eagles
Jerry Benjamin	Homestead Grays	Sam Jethroe	Cleveland Buckeyes
Roy Campanella	Baltimore Elite Giants	Verdel Mathis	Memphis Red Sox
Buz Clarkson	Philadelphia Stars	Don Newcombe	Newark Eagles
Leon Day	Newark Eagles	Jackie Robinson	Kansas City Monarchs
Larry Doby	Newark Eagles	Roy Welmaker	Homestead Grays
Sammy Hughes	Baltimore Elite Giants	Marvin Williams	Philadelphia Stars

Jackie Robinson was the player that Rickey finally chose to sign and integrate baseball.

### St. Louis Browns Buy Piper Davis Of Black Barons

Birmingham Ala., July 18—(UP)—Officials of the Birmingham Black Barons baseball club report that they have sold Negro second baseman Lorenzo "Piper" Davis to the St. Louis Browns.

The brilliant 23-year-old infielder is the third Negro to enter the major leagues. He goes to the Browns immediately on a 30-day option basis.

Davis is a six-footer, weighing 175 pounds. He has a .281 batting average in the Negro American league. The Birmingham star is a graduate of the city's Fairfield Industrial High School. He developed on local sandlot fields. In the winter he plays with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team.

**Naugatuck Daily News**  
Naugatuck, CT  
07-18-47

On July 17, 1947 the St. Louis Browns of the American League signed Kansas City Monarchs players Willard "Homerun" Brown and Henry "Hank" Thompson to Major League contracts. At the same time they took an option on Piper Davis. Unfortunately for Davis the Browns option expired on August 3rd and he was never officially signed. According to a story reported in the Pittsburgh Courier, St. Louis wanted to sign Davis and send him to the Browns farm team in Elmira (NY), but Tom Hayes (owner of the Black Barons) refused to approve the deal because he thought Piper should go straight to the Major Leagues.

### OPTION ON NEGRO DROPPED BY BROWNS

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 6—(UP)—The St. Louis Browns said they had dropped their 30-day option to sign Lorenzo (Piper) Davis, Negro infielder for the Birmingham Barons.

A spokesman for the Browns said they did not need Davis this year. He said that the Browns probably would sign him and send him to one of their farm clubs next spring if no other club claimed him before that.

The Browns' roster already includes two Negro players, outfielder Willard Brown and infielder Henry Thompson. Brown hit a home run in the ninth inning Monday night during an exhibition game with the Browns' Newark farm club.

**Record Eagle**  
Traverse City, MT  
08-06-47

The Browns not exercising their option to sign Davis in 1947 and his age most likely hurt his chances of being signed by Major League baseball. This is evident from a scouting report by the New York Yankees in 1949. The Yankee scout categorized Lorenzo as a good player, but did not recommend the Yankees signing him. The exact wording from the Yankees scouting report was as follows: “if he wasn’t good enough for the Browns two years ago, he couldn’t make it with the Yankees now.”

**Red Sox Sign Negro**  
**BOSTON, Aug. 15--(AP)--The Boston Red Sox announced today Piper Davis, Negro manager of the Birmingham Black Barons, has been signed by the Scranton, Pa., Red Sox for delivery in 1950. Scranton is a Boston farm team. Davis, who plays second base, is reported to be hitting around .400.**

Charleston Gazette  
 Charleston, WVA  
 08-16-49

Lorenzo finally got his chance to play in “organized” ball when Tom Hayes, owner of the Birmingham Black Barons, sold Piper’s contract to the Boston Red Sox for \$ 7,500.00 in late 1949. Under the terms of the sale, Hayes was to get an additional \$ 7,500.00 if Davis was still on Red Sox’s roster on May 15, 1950. The signing of Davis made him the first “black” ball player to be signed by the Boston Red Sox organization.

From the very start of spring training with the Boston Red Sox in Coco Beach (Florida), Piper experienced discrimination by the team and the fans. He was not allowed to room with the “white” players and was forced to stay in nearby servant quarters until he found accommodations in a private home.

He was not even allowed to use the same locker room as his teammates. Piper’s locker was in the visitor’s locker room and in Piper’s own words “I was in there alone.”

After spring training with the Red Sox, Piper was assigned to the Scranton Red Sox of the Eastern League. Scranton was the best option for the Red Sox because both of their minor league teams at a higher level were in the South (Louisville and Birmingham). Even with all the discrimination, Lorenzo seemed to have the support of Joe Cronin who was the General Manager of the Boston Red Sox. In a story that appeared in the Pittsburgh Courier on December 17, 1949, Cronin is quoted as saying the following regarding the Red Sox’s signing of Davis: “He is a fine kid. I’m going to try him out with the Scranton club. If he makes good, I’m going to waste no time moving him to Boston.”

**SCRANTON CLUB TO GET PIPER DAVIS**  
**Boston (AP) — The Boston Red Sox announced yesterday Piper Davis, Negro manager of the Birmingham Black Barons, has been signed by the Scranton Red Sox for delivery in 1950. Scranton is a Boston farm team. Davis, who plays second base, is reported to be hitting around .400.**

The Times Record  
 Troy, NY  
 08-16-49

Piper had no problem with Eastern League pitching and quickly established himself as the team’s leading hitter.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1950	Scranton	15	63	6	21	4	0	3	10	0	.333	.540

Unfortunately for Lorenzo shortly before the May 15<sup>th</sup> contract deadline he was released. At the time he was released, he was leading the team in batting average (.333), slugging percentage (.540), homeruns (3) and runs batted in (10). According to the Red Sox, Davis was released for “economic conditions” because they couldn’t afford to keep his contract. Upon his release Davis



left the clubhouse with only his ball cap and hairbrush. The Red Sox did not even pay for his train trip or expenses to return home to Birmingham.

After being released by Scranton, Piper finished the season with the Jalisco Charros in the Mexican League. Lorenzo hit .284 with a .526 slugging percentage in the 30 games he played for the Mexican club. The Charros were managed by former Negro Leaguer Quincy Troupe. Jalisco's roster also included William Greason (pitcher) who had been a teammate of Piper's on the 1948 Black Barons Negro American League championship team. Paced by Lorenzo's timely hitting and the outstanding pitching of Greason (10-1) the Charros won the second half championship of the Mexican League with a record of 26-16 (.619).

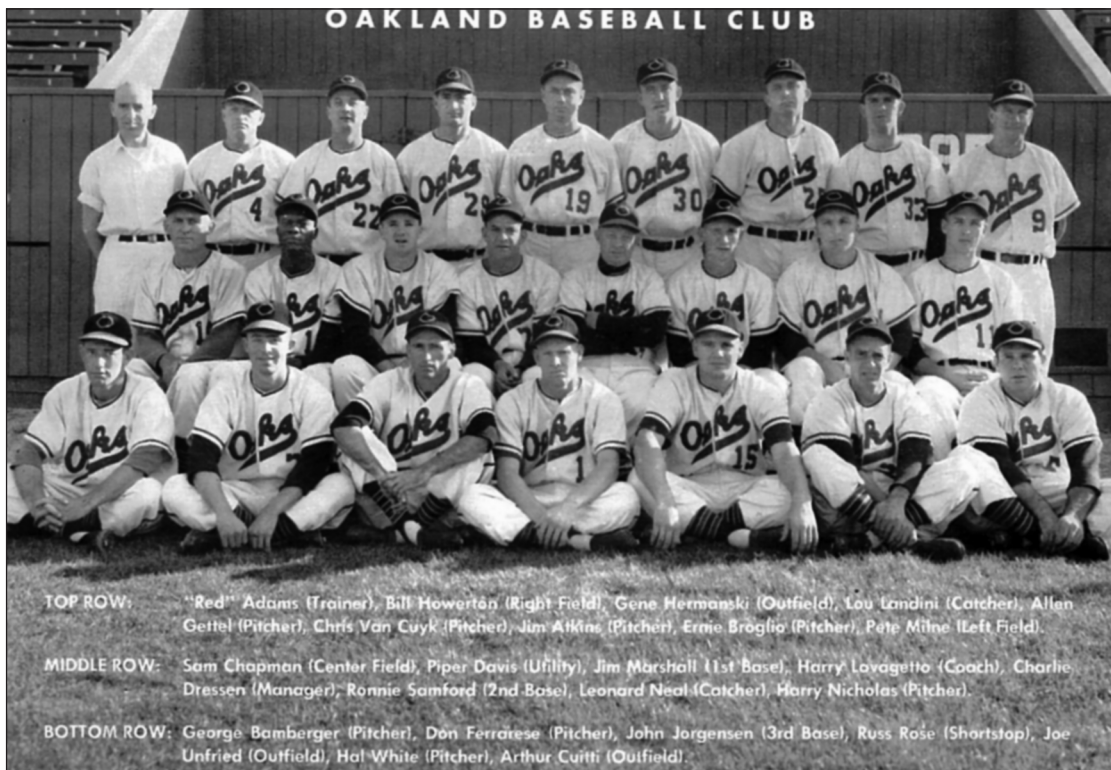
### **Minor League Career**

Before the start of the 1951 season, Piper got a call from his old friend Artie Wilson with whom he had played at ACIPCO in the Birmingham Industrial League and the Birmingham Black Barons in the Negro American League. Wilson was an established star in the Pacific Coast League and on the verge of going to the Major Leagues with the New York Giants. Artie knew from having played with Piper in the past and how Piper had handled pitching in the Eastern League and Mexican League the year before that Piper would do well playing in the Pacific Coast League. With Artie's recommendation, Piper was signed to a contract with the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League.

Piper started the season off with Oakland playing second base and in the outfield. His good friend Artie Wilson made the New York Giants Major League roster but was getting very limited playing time. The Giants decided to send Wilson down to their Triple A farm team at Ottawa in the International League and bring up Willie Mays. With Wilson no longer in the Major Leagues, Brick Laws, the owner of the Oakland Oaks, saw an excellent opportunity to bring Wilson back to the Oaks. Artie was a superstar in Oakland, very popular with the fans and could provide to significant boost in attendance at the ball park. Piper was putting up decent numbers with Oakland, in 79 games he was batting .266 with a .370 slugging percentage and 35 runs batted in. Laws worked out an even up trade with the Ottawa Giants, Lorenzo Davis for Artie Wilson. Piper finished the season with Ottawa, dividing his time between second base and first base. In his 78 games for the Giants he put up almost identical numbers that he had in Oakland. He hit .263 with a .353 slugging percentage and drove in 32 runs.



**Oakland Oaks (Pacific Coast League) (1952)**  
(Piper – back row fourth from right)



**Oakland Oaks (Pacific Coast League) (1954)**  
(Piper –middle row second from left)



**Fort Worth Cats (Texas League) (1957)**  
(Piper – back row fourth from right)



Like many professional ball players Lorenzo didn't stay in one place too long. By the start of the 1952 season, he was back in Oakland. With the Oaks, Piper became their number one utility player, getting time at second base, third base, first base and in the outfield. His versatility was really shown in the last game of the Oaks season when manager Mel Ott started Piper on the mound. After retiring the first three batters, Ott then had Piper play a different position each inning. Oakland's booster club was so impressed with Piper's effort that they gave him a \$ 500 bond at the end of the game. Davis's steady play and timely hitting helped the Oaks finish in second place in the Pacific Coast League with a record of 104-76 for the 1952 season.

Piper spent the next three years in Oakland and put up excellent numbers each season.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1952	Oakland	122	399	57	122	24	6	8	44	1	.306	.456
1953	Oakland	174	670	90	198	39	8	13	97	1	.288	.428
1954	Oakland	120	365	43	105	19	2	9	59	3	.288	.425

After getting off to a slow start during the 1955 season, Davis was dealt by Oakland to the Los Angeles Angels (Chicago Cubs organization). Now getting near the end of his career, Piper was viewed solely as a utility player. Piper had an off year at the plate and ended the 1955 season with a .244 batting average in 125 games and 369 at bats. In limited action for the Angels during the 1956 season, he did regain his hitting touch and finished the season with a .316 batting average and a .493 slugging percentage. The 1956 season was very special to Davis because he was part of the Los Angeles Angels championship team that won the Pacific Coast League title with a record of 107-61. At the end of the season, Piper was named to the Pacific Coast League All Star team as the utility infielder.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1956	Los Angeles	64	152	19	48	9	0	6	24	1	.316	.493

Before the start of the 1957 season, Piper was sent down to the Cubs Double AA affiliate at Fort Worth in the Texas League. The idea was for Piper to help coach and instruct some of the younger players for the Cats while playing a utility role on the roster. Davis did get a call up late in the season to the Angels and appeared in two games as a pinch hitter.

The 1958 season would be Piper's last in professional baseball as a player. Piper was now 42 years old and he had come to the end of his baseball career. He was back with the Fort Worth Cats in the Texas League as a player-coach for the 1958 Texas League season. Piper ended his career in style, posting good numbers at the plate and helped lead the Cats to a Texas League championship with a record of 89-64.

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1958	Ft. Worth	82	220	23	62	9	1	2	36	3	.282	.359

### **Back to the Negro Leagues**

After retiring from the Fort Worth Cats at the end of the 1958 season, Piper returned to the Negro American League to manage the Birmingham Black Barons. Davis managed the Black Barons for the 1959 season and was the manager of the West squad in the East West All Star game that was played at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Under the direction of Piper, the Black Barons were recognized as the Negro American League champions at the end of the regular season. By the late 1950's the Negro American League was in a significant rate of decline and the quality of play had greatly diminished. Piper did not return for the Black Barons 1960 season.

Piper in Puerto Rico

Liga Profesional de Baseball de Puerto Rico

(PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE OF PUERTO RICO)

P. O. BOX 2467
SAN JUAN

EXTRANJERO



PLAYER'S CONTRACT

Parties.

THE Caguas Guayama BASEBALL CLUB, herein called the Club, and Henry Piper Davis (Name) of H. I. 30 (Place of Birth) (Age) years old, herein called the Player.

Recital.

The Club is a member of the LIGA PROFESIONAL DE BASEBALL DE PUERTO RICO (Professional Baseball League of Puerto Rico), a corporation not for pecuniary profits, incorporated under the laws of Puerto Rico and formed by the clubs affiliated to the same, all of which have bound themselves to abide by and to strictly observe the Constitution of the "Liga Profesional de Baseball de Puerto Rico" (Professional Baseball League of Puerto Rico), and the Rules Governing Professional Baseball in Puerto Rico promulgated by the Public Amusement and Sports Commission of Puerto Rico. The purpose of said Constitution and Rules is to insure to the public high-class professional baseball, in which order and efficiency shall be assured, as well as the discipline between the Club and the Player, between clubs, between the League and the Club, and between the League and the Player, and to vest in the President of the League broad powers to achieve these purposes.

Agreement.

In consideration of the facts above recited and of the promises of each to the other, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Employment.

1 The Club hereby employs the Player to render, and the Player agrees to render, skilled and loyal services as a baseball player during the 19...-19... season, including the Club's training season, all the games of the Regular Series of the season in which the Club may participate, and the Final Series, should the contracting Club result a winner of either of the Regular Series.

Salary.

2. For the services aforesaid and the promises hereafter specified, the Club will pay the Player the sum of ... dollars (\$250 -) weekly semi-monthly, plus ... monthly living expenses

which he shall begin to receive from and after the commencement of the playing season, or from such subsequent date as the Player may begin to render his services, and which he shall continue to receive until the Club has played all the games of the Regular Series of the season, games to play off a tie, if any should be played, and the games of the Final Series, should the contracting Club result a winner of either regular Series or until the League may declare the season terminated.

Loyalty.

3. (a) The Player agrees to perform his services hereunder honestly and faithfully, for the contracting Club or for any other club of the "Liga Profesional de Baseball de Puerto Rico" (Professional Baseball League of Puerto Rico) to which, in conformity with its Constitution, he may be transferred; and to keep himself in first class physical condition, and to obey the Club's training and disciplinary rules, and pledges himself to observe good moral conduct and to carry out his duties faithfully and in a sportsmanlike manner.

Baseball Promotion.

(b) In addition to his services, the Player agrees to cooperate with the Club and participate in any and all promotional activities which, in the opinion of the Club, will promote the welfare of the Club or professional baseball, and to observe and comply with all requirements of the Club respecting conduct and services of its players, at all times, whether on or off the field.

Player Representations.

4. (a) The Player represents and agrees that he has skill and ability as a baseball player; that his services to be rendered hereunder are of special, unusual, and extraordinary character, which gives them peculiar value which can not be reasonably or adequately compensated for in damages at law, and that the Player's breach of this contract will cause the Club great and irreparable injury and damage. The Player agrees that, in addition to other remedies, the Club shall be entitled to injunctive and other equitable relief to prevent a breach of this contract by the Player, including, among others, the right to enjoin the Player for playing baseball for any other person, organization or corporation, public or private, during the term of this contract.

Condition.

(b) The Player represents that he has no physical or mental defects, known to him, which would prevent him from rendering efficient services.

Bar.

(c) The Player agrees that he cannot, directly or indirectly, be a member of the Board of Directors of the League, nor of the Board of Directors of any club affiliated with the "Liga Profesional de Baseball de Puerto Rico" (Professional Baseball League of Puerto Rico); nor have any interest, hold stock, etc., in any such club.

Service.

5. (a) The Player agrees that, while under contract, and while the right of the Club to renew said contract shall subsist, he will not play baseball for any other club affiliated with the "Liga Profesional de Baseball de Puerto Rico" (Professional Baseball League of Puerto Rico) nor for any other professional baseball organization in Puerto Rico, whether it be a public or private corporation, a partnership or an individual.

Other Sports.

(b) The Player recognizes and agrees that his participation in other sports and activities may impair or destroy his ability as a baseball player. Accordingly, the Player agrees that during the term of this contract he will not engage, without written consent of his club, in any game, match or exhibition of boxing, wrestling, pancration, football, basketball, or other activities that may impair or destroy his ability and efficiency as a baseball player.



## Puerto Rican Winter League Career

In 1947 Lorenzo traveled to the Caribbean to play with former Negro League players: Sam Bankhead, Waymon Longley, Charlie Rivero, Benny Rodriguez, Eugene Smith, Quincy Troupe, Robert Vargas and Juan "Tetelo" Vargas for the Caguas Criollos for the 1947-48 Puerto Rican Winter League season. The Criollos also featured two young future Major League players: Vic Power and Pedro Ramos. Piper had a good season at the plate with a .303 batting average. He also led Caguas with 10 homeruns and 51 runs batted in. Caguas finished strong over the second half of the season and closed the season out in second place with a 33-26 (.559) record, five and a half games behind the Mayaguez Indios (39-21).

**SAN JUAN**  
Visiting Team

- 1) J. Almonzo
- 2) J. Williams
- 3) L. Olfredo
- 4) N. A. Rivera
- 5) H. Gregory
- 6) J. M. Aguado
- 7) Juan Montalvo
- 8) Luis Tirado
- 9) Freddy Tass
- 10) J. Yodanis
- 11) A. Abona
- 12) A. Rosario
- 13) G. Vega
- 14) P. Delgado
- 15) C. Garcia
- 16) L. Chapman
- 17) F. Suarez
- 18) Juan Carrero
- 19) W. C. Pardo
- 20) Ramon Martinez
- 21) L. Martinez
- 22) V. Villafra

(8) R. Ramirez  
Apoderado

**SANTURGO**  
Visiting Team

UD	UM
L. Cabrera 1	1
V. Cruz 2	17
T. Espinosa 3	6
W. Rivera 4	4
H. Tabares 5	25
H. Therman 6	24
L. Solla 7	18
C. Maldonado 8	6
P. Arroyo 9	16
M. Hdez. 10	22
L. Ponce 11	13
P. Andino 12	19
P. Ramos 13	15
L. Cox 14	11
P. Andrades 15	10
D. Navarro 16	20
E. Rivera 17	9
G. Gomez 18	5
J. Ponce 19	21
A. Gerard 20	7
F. Smith 21	14
—	12
—	23
—	23
V. Harris 9	3

Apoderado

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*Luis E. Soler*

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**MAYAGUEZ**  
Visiting Team

- 1) C. Llanusa
- 2) J. Guedes
- 3) O. Rial
- 4) P. Valentin
- 5) E. Suarez
- 6) Jorge Tirado
- 7) Barney Brewer
- 8) J. A. Burgos
- 9) A. Obvensis
- 10) L. O. London
- 11) F. D. Pardo
- 12) G. M. Morales
- 13) A. Abona
- 14) Felix Gallo
- 15) Juan Gallo
- 16) Juan Santiago
- 17) L. E. Arroyo
- 18) C. Torres
- 19) Fox Casabero
- 20) V. Quilones
- 21) H. Smith
- 22) George Scales

Apoderado

**AGUADILLA**  
Visiting Team

- 1) Kenneth Sears
- 2) Felipe Pires
- 3) Ramon Leon
- 4) Otoniel Orellana
- 5) Charles Glantz
- 6) Juan Sanchez
- 7) C. Marquez
- 8) J. Sabberton
- 9) A. Oppenheimer
- 10) M. Rodriguez
- 11) A. Marero
- 12) R. V. Santiago
- 13) O. Mir Flores
- 14) Luis Morales
- 15) R. Canavero
- 16) R. Gonzalez
- 17) Rafael Pires
- 18) L. Valdes
- 19) G. Griffith
- 20) D. Navarro
- 21) V. Villafra

Apoderado

(1) Kenneth Sears

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y a los fanáticos del  
**PONTIAC**

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SINTONICE NUESTROS PROGRAMAS RADIALES  
**WEAQ** **WJAC**  
MARTES TODOS LOS  
JUEVES SABADOS  
7:45 A 8 P. M. 10 A 11 P. M.

**ROYAL CROWN**  
COLA

Puerto Rican Scorecard (1947-48)

Quincy Troupe who had managed Caguas for the 1947-48 season was back managing Caguas for the 1948-49 Puerto Rican Winter League season. Troupe convinced Piper to return to Puerto Rico for the 1948-49 season with the Criollos. Even with former Negro League players like Gene Baker, Dan Bankhead, Gene Collins, Lorenzo Davis, Roberto Vargas and Tetelo Vargas, the Criollos only finished the season in the middle of the league standings with a 41-39 (.512) record. Piper was the team's leading hitter with 8 homeruns and 66 runs batted in. His play during the season was so strong that he was asked to join the Mayaguez Indios after the regular winter league season had concluded to play second base for them in the inaugural Caribbean World Series that was held in Havana, Cuba. Even with a team made up of several Negro League stars (Johnny Davis, Piper Davis, Luke Easter, Alonzo Perry, William Powell, Quincy Troupe and Artie Wilson), the Indios could only manage one win in six games and finished in last place in the tournament.

Lorenzo replaced George Scales as manager of the 1949-50 Ponce Leones in the Puerto Rican Winter League. In his role as player-manager, he recruited the following Negro League players: Buz Clarkson, Pancho Coimbre, Jose Burgos, Felix Guilbe, Booker Mc Daniel, Bill Powell, Tomas Quinones, Jose Santiago, Barney Serrell, Lonnie Summers and Marvin Williams to play for the Ponce Leones for the 1949-50 Puerto Rican Winter League season. Davis had another good season in Puerto Rico as he led the Leones in runs batted in with 59 and was the second leading hitter on the team with a .293 batting average. Behind the managerial skills of Lorenzo and the strong play of his fellow former Negro League players, the Leones finished in second place in the Puerto Rican Winter League with a 45-35 (.563) record three games behind the Caguas Criollos who posted a 47-31 (.603) won-loss record.



## Piper in Latin America



Piper hits game winning homerun for the Jalisco Charros (Mexico) (1950)



Piper beats out a hit for Estrellas Orientales (Dominican Republic) (1955-56)

## Venezuelan Career

Davis went to Venezuela for the 1951-52 winter league season. In 1951 he joined former Negro League player Roy Welmaker to play for team Venezuela in the 1951-52 Venezuelan Winter League. Team Venezuela had a mediocre season and finished in third place out of four teams with a 23-35 record. They were nineteen games behind league champion Cervecería Caracas (41-15) when the season ended. Piper however had such a good season with Venezuela that when the season was over, he was asked to play in the outfield for Cervecería Caracas in the Caribbean World Series. The series was played in Panama City, Panama. Cervecería Caracas made a respectable showing by finishing the tournament tied for second place with a record of 3-3.

Lorenzo returned to South America to play the 1952-53 Venezuelan Winter League season with team Venezuela. Venezuela finished the season with a 26-31 record six games behind Caracas (32-25) for the league championship. Martin Dihigo, the manager of Caracas, was so impressed with Piper's play during the season that he recruited Davis to join his team to play third base for them in the Caribbean World Series that was held in Havana, Cuba.

Team Venezuela did not field a team for the 1953-54 Venezuelan Winter League season. Piper joined former Negro League stars Sam Jones and Dave Pope to play with Gavilanes for the 1953-54 Venezuelan Winter League season. One of the highlights of Piper's season with the Gavilanes came on January 26, 1954 when he went 4 for 4 with 2 homeruns and 3 runs batted in a 6-2 victory over Caracas. Gavilanes did not fare so well in their inaugural season in the Venezuelan Winter League as they posted a record of 34-44 and finished fourteen games behind Pastora (48-30) for the league title.



## Dominican Republic: Piper's Final Stop in Winter Baseball

Over the course of his career, Piper always played winter ball after the regular Negro League or Minor League season was over. After having played winter baseball in California, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Venezuela, Piper went to the Dominican Republic to play winter ball in 1955. Lorenzo played for Estrellas Orientales for the 1955-56 Dominican Winter League season. The Orientales were managed by Ramon Bragana. The team also included several other former Negro League players besides Davis: Joe Black, Wilmer Fields, Charlie Neal, Pat Scantlebury and Juan "Tetelo" Vargas. Even with this star studded line-up, the Orientales team could only manage a record of 11-42.

## Assessing Piper's Career

Lorenzo "Piper" Davis played semipro and professional baseball for twenty-four (24) seasons from 1935 to 1958.

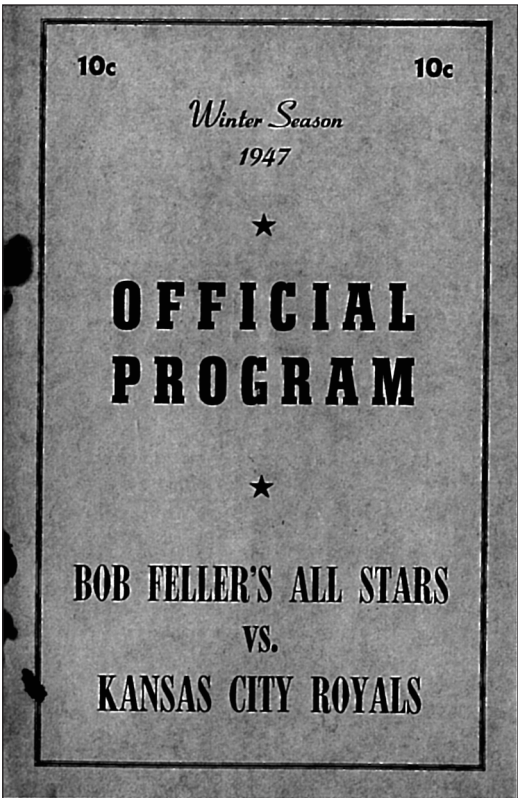
To put his career in perspective, it is important to take the following facts into consideration:

- Piper's career in the Birmingham Industrial League (BIL) should not be taken lightly. The BIL was not your typical sand lot league; it was highly competitive. The ACIPCO team that Lorenzo played for regularly had five or six future Negro League players on their squad. In addition there were numerous players in the league that gave up the opportunity to play in the Negro Leagues for a good steady company paycheck and the opportunity to play highly competitive baseball in the BIL.
- It is important to take into consideration Piper's age when he signed with "organized" ball in 1950. Piper was already 33 years old when he signed with the Scranton Red Sox. He was 10 to 15 years older than most other rookies and definitely on the downhill side of his career.
- Piper played well past his prime and his numbers from his last four seasons had a significant negative impact on his career batting average. In 1955 Davis was 38 years old. A time when most ball players had already retired. Hall of Fame contemporaries to Piper who were also in the Boston Red Sox organization when Piper signed were Lou Boudreau and Bobby Doerr. They retired at 34 and 33 years of age respectively. But Piper continued to play four more seasons after the start of the 1955 season. Even though his playing time was limited to a utility role he still had 962 plate appearances over these four years. Piper collected 248 hits for a respectable .258 batting average, but this was well below his previous level of performance. Piper finished his career with a .309 batting average. If you take out these last four seasons, Piper would have had a .321 career batting average.
- A significant number of his hitting statistics are still missing. Most of these statistics are from early in his career when he should have been most productive. We are:
  1. Missing most of his extra base hit totals, runs batted in, runs scored, stolen bases, etc. for the Birmingham Industrial League.
  2. Missing most all of his hitting statistics for the 1946 Negro American League season plus many of his runs scored and most of his runs batted in for his entire Negro American League career.
  3. Missing doubles and triples for 1944 and 1947 while playing for the Birmingham Black Barons.
  4. Missing most of his California Winter League career and all of his barnstorming statistics.
  5. Missing most of his 1948-49 Puerto Rican Winter League numbers.
  6. Missing all of his winter league statistics for Mexico (at least one season), Dominican Republic (one season) and Venezuela (three seasons).
  7. Missing all of his batting statistics from when the Birmingham Black Barons played "non-league" teams.
  8. Missing virtually all of his statistics when he played for independent teams like the Omaha Tigers and Yakima Indians.
- In 1945 Piper Davis was recognized by the Brooklyn Dodgers as a Negro League player with Major League talent but was never signed. In 1947 the St. Louis Browns took out an option on Lorenzo, but he was never signed. In 1950 he was signed by the Boston Red Sox and played only 15 games at Scranton before being released. At



the time the Red Sox released him he was the team's leading hitter in every offensive category. All of these situations had to have a significant negative psychological impact on Piper. Lorenzo should have gone to "organized" ball at least four years before he was given a "real" opportunity with the Oakland Oaks. These situations took time away from his career in "organized" baseball and had to have had a dramatic negative impact on him from a psychological perspective.

- Piper played baseball year round and for five winters during his prime; he also played professional basketball in the off season. This was very physically demanding. In fact after three straight winters of playing basketball for the Globetrotters, he was forced to make a choice between baseball and basketball because his body couldn't take the physical toll. There is no question that if Piper had only concentrated on one sport his body would have been in significantly better condition.
- Lastly, Piper was one of the most versatile players in baseball during his day. He could field any position on the baseball diamond equally well. He started out as the top first baseman in the Birmingham Industrial League. When he moved to the Negro American League, he made five (5) straight Negro League All Star teams as the West squad's starting second baseman. He and Artie Wilson (shortstop) were considered the top middle infield combination in the Negro League in the mid 1940's. In organized baseball, he was the number one utility player in the Pacific Coast League in the 1950's. Lorenzo didn't just play the positions. He played them at a very high level. Over the course of his career, he was named to an all star team or played in a World Series at every position on the field except pitcher. His versatility of being able to field any position at an exemplary level and this added value to his team was an asset that didn't show up on any stat sheet or roster.



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Jimmie Williams	RF												
Ray Maul	2B												
Ed Steele	3B												
Piper Davis	SS												
Bill Hopkins	LF												
Jed East	CF												
Gene Tamm	1B												
Doc Green	P												
Reuter Hayward	C												

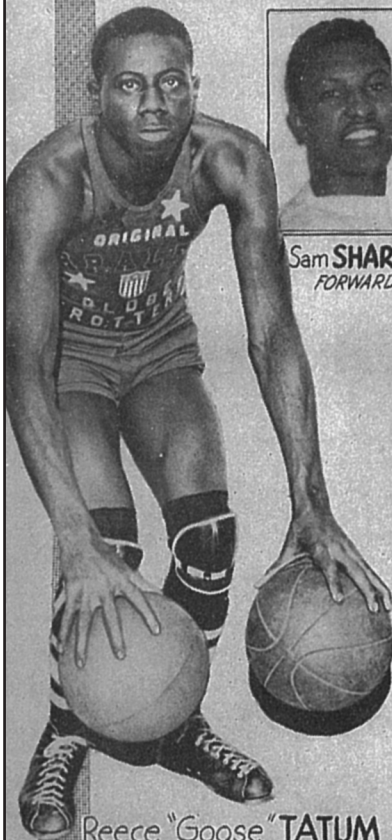
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Kansas City Royals vs Satchel Paige All Stars (1947)  
Program and Scorecard  
(Piper - starting second baseman and batted cleanup)



# Contributions of the 1940's to GLOBETROTTERS Renown



Reece "Goose" **TATUM**  
CENTER



Sam **SHARPE**  
FORWARD



Al **PRICE**  
GUARD



Bruce **WRIGHT**  
FORWARD

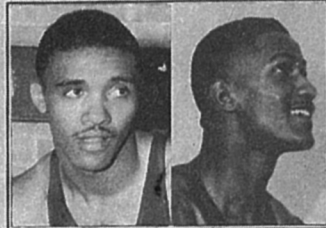
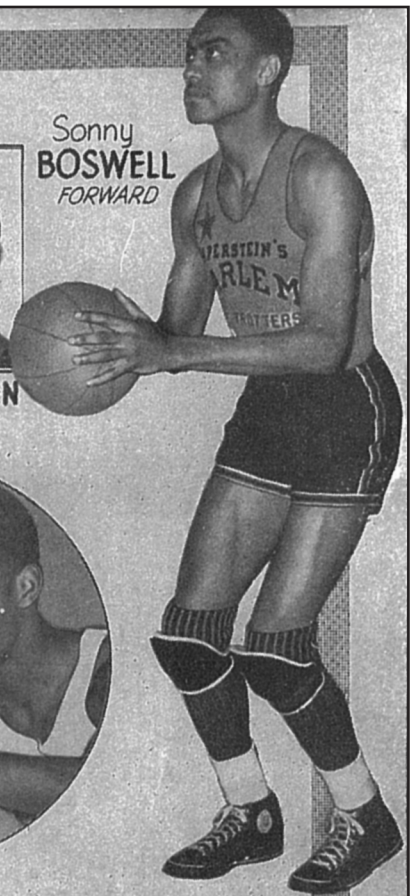


"Pop" **GATES**  
FORWARD



Roscoe **JULIEN**  
FORWARD

Sonny **BOSWELL**  
FORWARD

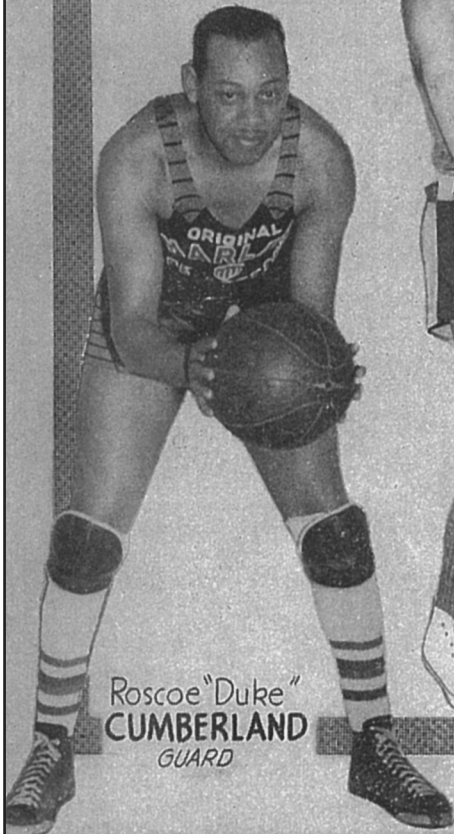


Donald "Ducky" **MOORE**  
FORWARD

Everett **MARCELL**  
CENTER



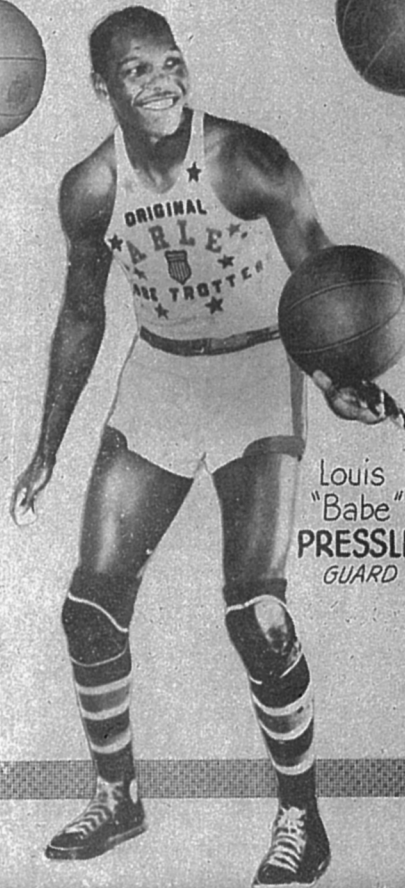
Roosevelt **HUDSON**  
FORWARD



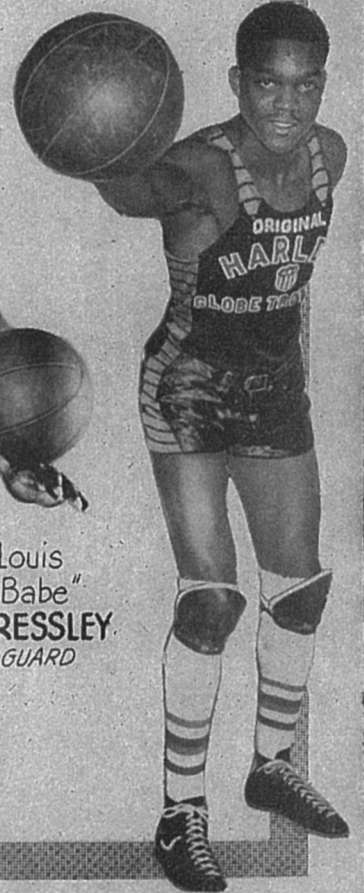
Roscoe "Duke" **CUMBERLAND**  
GUARD



Ermer **ROBINSON**  
FORWARD



Louis "Babe" **PRESSLEY**  
GUARD



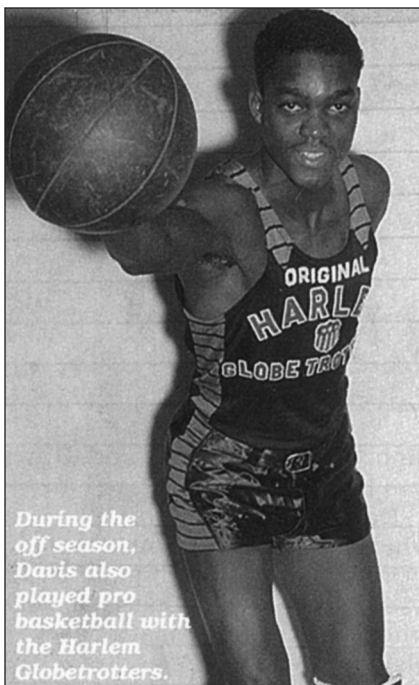
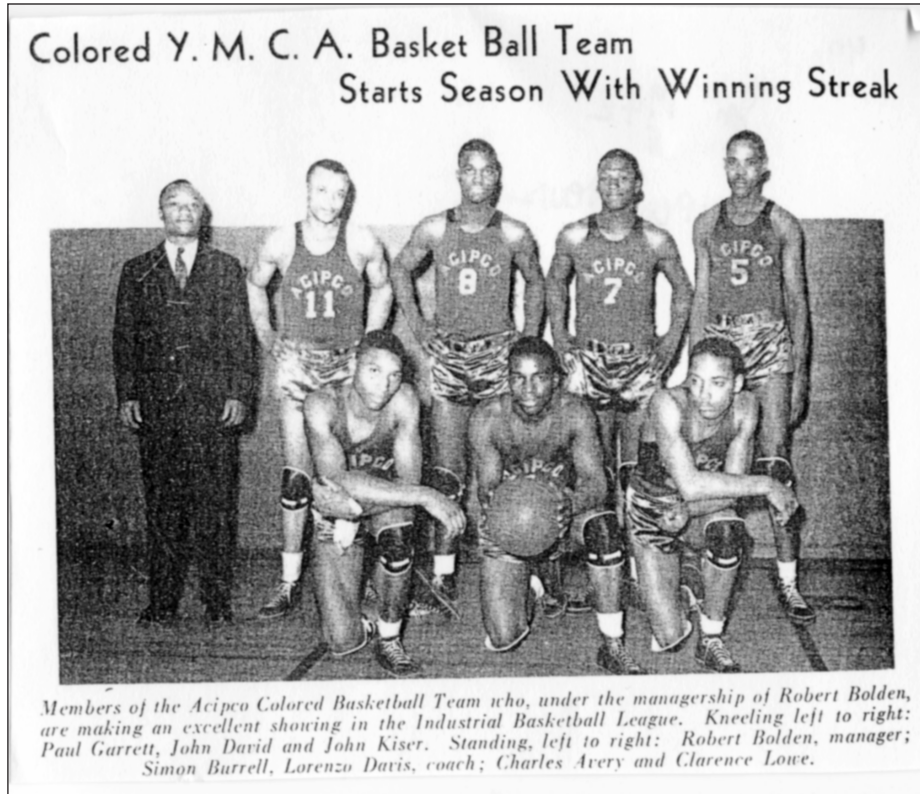
Lorenzo "Piper" **DAVIS**  
GUARD



## Two Sport Star: Piper's Basketball Career

In high school, Lorenzo starred for both the baseball and basketball teams at Interurban Heights High School in Fairfield, Alabama. His basketball skills in high school were so strong that he was given a basketball scholarship to Alabama State Teachers College.

When Piper went to work at ACIPCO in 1939, he starred on both their baseball and basketball teams in the Birmingham Industrial League. He was one of the top players in the industrial league as he coached and played basketball for ACIPCO from 1939 to 1942. Behind the strong play of Piper, the ACIPCO basketball teams dominated amateur basketball in the Birmingham area.

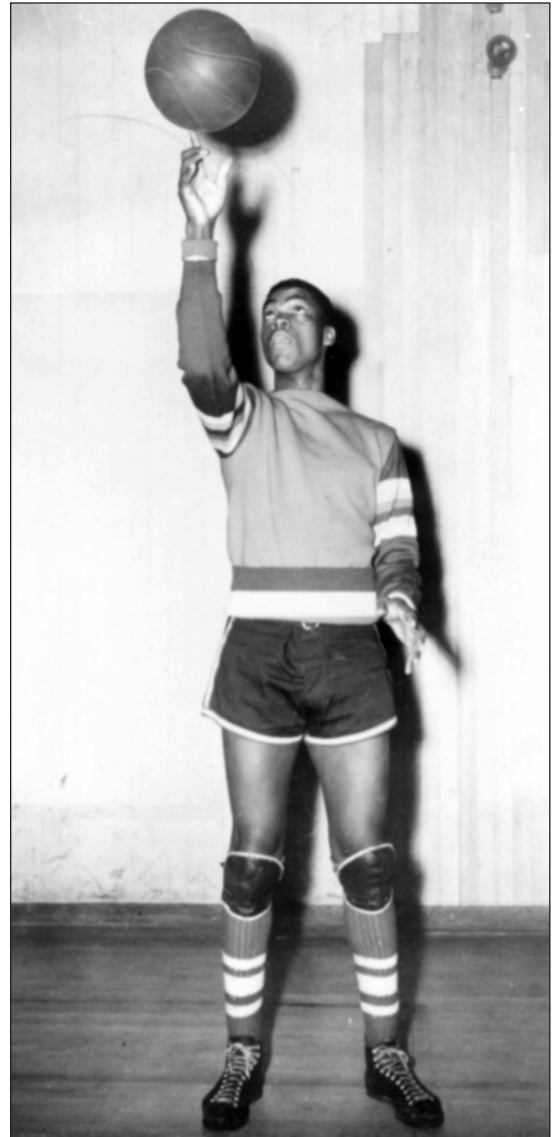


**ACIPICO Basketball Team**  
*ACIPCO News* (January 1942)  
 (Piper – back row third from right)

Piper's basketball career got a tremendous boost when he signed to play for the Birmingham Black Barons in 1942. Abe Saperstein who owned the world renowned Harlem Globetrotters was also a part owner of the Black Barons and Wingfield Welch, the manager of the Black Barons, was also the manager of the Globetrotters. The Harlem Globetrotters had a history of signing Negro League ball players to play basketball for them in the Negro League off season. Some of these players included: Zack Clayton, Joe Bankhead, Paul Hardy, Othello Strong, Ted Strong, Reece "Goose" Tatum and Sam "Boom Boom" Wheeler. Saperstein and Welch both had exceptional ability to recognize sports talent and signed Piper to play for the Globetrotters in the Negro League off season. Lorenzo played for the Harlem Globetrotters three straight seasons from 1943 through 1946. He also served as the team's road manager during their barnstorming tours.



Playing basketball for the Globetrotters was a good off season job for Piper as he made \$ 350 per month plus \$ 2 a day meal money and an extra \$ 1 if the team had to ride all night on the bus instead of staying in a hotel. But the physical stress of playing sports year round caught up with Davis. Lorenzo did not return to the Globetrotters for the 1946-47 season. According to Piper playing baseball and basketball for basically twelve months a year had started taking a toll on his body. In his mind he had to choose one or the other and he chose baseball. He did however return to play for Harlem during the 1947-48 and 1950-51 seasons. In 1957 Davis went back to work for the Globetrotters as the team's traveling secretary, road manager, part-time coach and driving the team bus. Piper held this job for the 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1960-61 seasons.



Harlem Globetrotters  
(1947-48)

**Basketball**  
**Chehalis All Stars**  
 — vs. —  
**Harlem Globetrotters**  
**THURS. NIGHT**  
**8 o'Clock**  
**Feb. 20th**  
**High School Gym.**  
**Chehalis**

Harlem Globetrotters Newspaper Advertisement  
The Daily Chronicle  
 Centralia, IN  
 02-19-47

**Harlem Globetrotters to  
 Play in Dayton Friday**

The famous Harlem Globetrotters will make an appearance in Dayton Friday night, playing Hoon's Aces. This will be the eastern section of the "Trotter barnstormers.

It includes such players as the Cudjoe twins, a pair of 5 foot 5 inch stars, along with "Piper" Davis, Sharpe, Moore, and a clown who will entertain at halftime.

Union Bulletin  
 Walla Walla, WA  
 01-08-48

## Life after Professional Baseball

Piper's last season as a professional baseball player was 1958 when he was a player-coach for the Fort Worth Cats of the Texas League. After the 1958 season, he returned home to Birmingham, Alabama. From 1958 to 1961, he worked for the Harlem Globetrotters. In 1961 he also managed the Honey Lanes Bowling Alley in Birmingham.

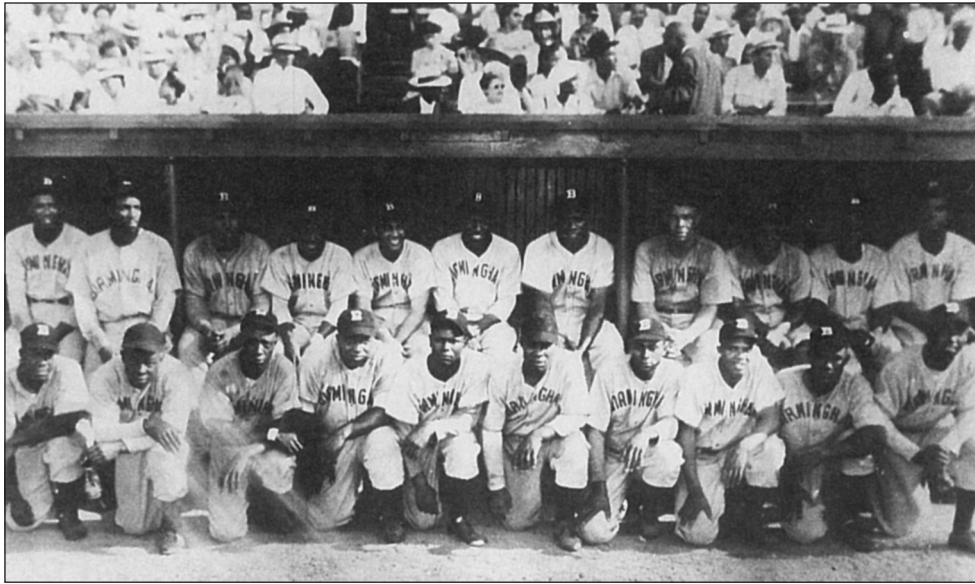
Baseball had been the center of Piper's life since 1935 when he played his first season of professional ball. After being out of baseball for less than two years, Piper was signed by the Detroit Tigers of the American League as a scout in 1960. He was the first black scout in the Detroit Tigers organization. His tenure with Detroit as a scout seems to have been relatively short. In 1962 Davis returned to the baseball field as a player-coach for Stockham Valves and Fittings. For the next three seasons Davis was a player-coach for Stockham in the Y.M.C.A. Industrial League. Besides helping coach the younger players, Piper still had a little life left in his bat as is shown by his .340 batting average for the 1963 season. In 1965, he became the manager for Stockham. The first thing that Piper did as manager of Stockham was to recruit former Negro League players for the Stockham team. When Piper had finished his recruiting, all but one position on his starting line-up was filled by a former Negro League ball player. The starting line-up for the 1965 Stockham Valves and Fittings baseball team that played in the Y.M.C.A. Industrial League was as follows:

Position	Player	Former Negro League Team
1B	James "Sap" Ivory	Birmingham Black Barons
2B	Melvin Stoves	No Negro League Affiliation
SS	Jesse Bass	Birmingham Black Barons Detroit Stars
3B	Henry Elmore	Birmingham Black Barons Philadelphia Stars
C	Walter Stoves	Birmingham Black Barons
RF	Ray Haggins	Memphis Red Sox
CF	Jesse Mitchell	Birmingham Black Barons Kansas City Monarchs
LF	Clifford Du Bose	Memphis Red Sox Birmingham Black Barons
P	Pete Mumpford	Birmingham Black Barons

Under his leadership Stockham continued to dominate play in the industrial league. Piper managed Stockham from 1965 through the 1967 season. As a manager he possessed a keen baseball mind. Henry Elmore, who played for Piper all three years that he managed Stockham, described Piper Davis' managerial skills and style as follows: "He was strict but fair. If you didn't practice you didn't play. Piper was good at developing ball players and getting the best out of you. He just knew how to treat the guys and win baseball games. Over all the years I played baseball, he was the best manager I ever had." Stockham won the Birmingham Industrial League championship all three seasons that Piper managed the team.

In 1968, Lorenzo returned to scouting for Major League baseball when he was signed as a fulltime scout by the Major League Scouting Bureau. Over his Major League scouting career he scouted for: the Detroit Tigers (1960), Major League Scouting Bureau (1968-1970), Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals (1971-1976) and the Montreal Expos (1984-1985).

Lorenzo "Piper" Davis passed away on May 21, 1997 of a heart attack at the age of 79 in Birmingham, Alabama. When Piper passed away we lost one of the most outstanding athletes of his day. But Piper was so much more than an excellent baseball and basketball player. He was a tremendous person who touched the lives of everyone he came into contact with. As a player, coach or manager, Lorenzo "Piper" Davis always exemplified the values that a professional athlete should strive to attain.



**Birmingham Black Barons (Negro American League) (1946)**  
 (Piper – back row first on right)



**Birmingham Black Barons (Negro American League) (1948)**  
 (Piper – middle row fourth from left)



**East West All Star Game (1948)**  
 (Piper – back row second on right)



## Playing Career

### Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1935-1936	Omaha Tigers	Barnstorming Team
1937	Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co.	Alabama Coal and Iron League
1938	Yakima Indians	Independent Team (Yakima, WA)
1939-1942	ACIPCO	Birmingham Industrial League
1942-1950	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League
1950	Scranton Red Sox	Eastern League
1950	Jalisco Charros	Mexican League
1951	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast League
1951	Ottawa Giants	International League
1952-1955	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast League
1955-1956	Los Angeles Angels	Pacific Coast League
1957	Fort Worth Cats	Texas League
1957	Los Angeles Angels	Pacific Coast League
1958	Fort Worth Cats	Texas League
1959	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League (Manager)
1962-1964	Stockham Valves and Fittings	Y.M.C.A. Industrial League
1965-1967	Stockham Valves and Fittings	Y.M.C.A. Industrial League (Manager)

### Winter Leagues:

1943-44	Negro League All Stars	California – Independent Schedule
1944	Birmingham Black Barons	Series vs Bill Raimondi's Coast League Stars
1944	Birmingham Black Barons	Game vs Augie Galan's All Stars
1944-45	Birmingham Black Barons	California Winter League
1945	Birmingham Black Barons	California Winter League
1945	Birmingham Black Barons	Series vs Bill Raimondi's All Stars
1946	Abe Saperstein's Negro League All Stars	Hawaiian Barnstorming Schedule
1946	Cincinnati Crescent All Stars	Barnstorming Tour (West Coast)
1947	Birmingham Stars	Barnstorming Tour (California)
1947	Jackie Robinson's All Stars	Barnstorming Game in California
1947	Kansas City Royals	California – Baseball Exhibition Series
1947	Chet Brewer's All Stars	Barnstorming Tour vs Bob Feller All Stars
1947	Chet Brewer's All Stars	Barnstorming Tour vs Ewell Blackwell All Stars
1947-48	Caguas Criollos	Puerto Rican Winter League
1948-49	Caguas Criollos	Puerto Rican Winter League
1949	Mayaguez Indios	Caribbean World Series
1949-50	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1950	Birmingham Black Barons	Series vs Major League All Stars
1951	Oakland Oaks	Game vs Cleveland Indians
1951	Campanella's All Stars	Barnstorming Tour vs Gil Hodges All Stars
1951-52	Venezuela	Venezuelan Winter League
1952	Cerveceria Caracas (Venezuela)	Caribbean World Series (Panama)
1952-53	Venezuela	Venezuelan Winter League
1953	Caracas (Venezuela)	Caribbean World Series (Havana, Cuba)
1953-54	Gavilanes	Venezuelan Winter League
1955-56	Estrellas Orientales	Dominican Winter League
1956-57	Dominican Winter League	
1956-57	Mexican Winter League	

## Managerial Career

1948-1949	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League
1949-50	Ponce Leones	Puerto Rican Winter League
1959	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League
1959	West Squad	East West All Star Game
1965-1967	Stockham Valves & Fittings	Y.M.C.A. Industrial League

## Major League Baseball Scouting Career

1960	Detroit Tigers
1968-1970	Major League Scouting Bureau
1971-1976	Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals
1984-1985	Montreal Expos

## Basketball Career

1934-1935	Interurban Heights High School	High School Basketball
1936	Alabama State Teachers College	College Basketball
1939-1942	ACIPCO Bob's Savoy Café	Birmingham Industrial League Birmingham City League
1943-44	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1944-45	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1945-46	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1947-48	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1950-51	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1957-58	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1958-59	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team
1960-61	Harlem Globetrotters	Barnstorming Team



Satchel Paige, unknown, Lionel Hampton and Lorenzo "Piper" Davis



## Career Statistics - Hitting

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Birmingham Industrial League - BIL)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1939	ACIPCO	-	100	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	.450	-
1940	ACIPCO	-	103	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	.388	-
1941	ACIPCO	-	125	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	.352	-
1942	ACIPCO	-	126	-	57	-	-	14	-	-	.452	-
1943	ACIPCO	-	17	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	.412	-
	Total	-	471	-	193	-	-	14	-	-	.410	-

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Negro League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1942	Birmingham	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1943	Birmingham	-	57	-	22	9	1	1	-	1	.386	.632
1944	Birmingham	64	253	40	78	-	-	2	-	7	.308	-
1945	Birmingham	58	211	36	66	10	7	3	33	7	.313	.469
1946	Birmingham	4	11	-	3	0	1	0	-	0	.273	.455
1947	Birmingham	56	228	52	82	-	-	2	-	0	.360	-
1948	Birmingham	76	295	63	104	19	8	7	69	6	.353	.542
1949	Birmingham	87	317	65	119	27	8	9	67	3	.375	.596
1950	Birmingham	42	149	36	57	10	2	3	28	4	.383	.537
	Total	389	1525	292	531	75	27	27	197	28	.348	-

### Career Statistics – Hitting (East-West All Star Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1946	West	2	7	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	.429	.429
1947	West	2	8	2	3	1	0	0	2	1	.375	.500
1948	West	2	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	.143	.286
1949	West	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250	.500
	Total	7	26	5	8	3	0	0	4	2	.308	.423

### Career Statistics – Hitting (California Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1944-45	Birmingham	3	10	-	5	1	0	1	-	-	.500	.900

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Series I vs Major League All Star Teams)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1947	Brewer All Stars	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1950	Brewer All Stars	-	20	-	6	1	-	2	-	-	.300	.650
1951	Campanella All Stars	-	4	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	.500	.750
	Total	-	24	-	8	2	-	3	-	-	.333	-

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Series II vs Non-League Teams)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1935	Omaha	2	10	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	.400	-
1945	Birmingham	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	-	.333	.667
1946	Birmingham	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	.500	.500
1947	Birmingham	1	3	3	3	3	0	0	1	-	1.000	2.000
	Total	5	18	8	9	4	0	0	2	-	.500	-

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Mexican League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1950	Jalisco	30	116	29	33	4	3	6	15	6	.284	.526

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Minor Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1950	Scranton	15	63	6	21	4	0	3	10	0	.333	.540
1951	Oakland	79	289	38	77	16	1	4	35	5	.266	.370
1951	Ottawa	78	278	18	73	10	3	3	32	7	.263	.353
1952	Oakland	122	399	57	122	24	6	8	44	1	.306	.456
1953	Oakland	174	670	90	198	39	8	13	97	1	.288	.428
1954	Oakland	120	365	43	105	19	2	9	59	3	.288	.425
1955	Oakland	125	369	39	90	19	1	6	41	1	.244	.350
	San Francisco											
1956	Los Angeles	64	152	19	48	9	0	6	24	1	.316	.493
1957	Ft. Worth	87	219	11	47	10	2	2	20	-	.215	.306
1957	Los Angeles	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.500	.500
1958	Ft. Worth	82	220	23	62	9	1	2	36	3	.282	.359
	Total	948	3026	344	844	159	24	56	398	22	.279	.403

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Winter League – Puerto Rico)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1947-48	Caguas	-	188	-	57	5	4	10	51	4	.303	.532
1948-49	Caguas	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	66	-	-	-
1949-50	Ponce	-	304	52	89	14	8	3	59	-	.293	.421
	Total		492	52	146	19	12	21	176	-	.297	-

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Winter League – Caribbean World Series)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1949	Mayaguez	6	27	6	7	2	0	0	4	1	.259	.333
1952	Cerverceia Caracas	-	15	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	.267	.267
1953	Caracas	6	23	5	6	0	1	0	3	0	.261	.348
	Total	12	65	11	17	2	1	0	7	1	.262	.323

### Career Statistics – Hitting (Winter League - Dominican Republic)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1955-56	Orientales	35	132	-	33	6	0	0	14	3	.250	.295



### Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Industrial League	-	471	-	193	-	-	14	-	-	.410	-
Negro League	389	1525	292	531	75	27	27	197	28	.348	-
East West All Star	7	26	5	8	3	0	0	4	2	.308	.423
California	3	10	-	5	1	0	1	-	-	.500	.900
Exhibition I	-	24	-	8	2	-	3	-	-	.300	-
Exhibition II	5	18	8	9	4	0	0	2	-	.500	-
Puerto Rico	-	492	52	146	19	12	21	176	-	.297	-
Caribbean Series	12	65	11	17	2	1	0	7	1	.262	.323
Mexico	30	116	29	33	4	3	6	15	6	.284	.526
Dominican Republic	35	132	-	33	6	0	0	14	3	.250	.295
Minor Leagues	948	3026	344	844	159	24	56	398	22	.279	.403
Total	1429	5905	742	1827	275	67	128	813	62	.309	-

### Batting and League Leader Hitting Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Batting Title	1939	Birmingham Industrial League	.450
At Bats	1940	Birmingham Industrial League	103
	1949	Caribbean World Series	27
Total Bases	1949	Negro American League	189
Homeruns	1942	Birmingham Industrial League	14
	1947	California Winter League	2
Runs Batted In	1948	Negro American League	69

### Championship Teams on which Piper Davis Played

Team	League	Year (s)
ACIPCO	Birmingham Industrial League	1939, 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943
Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League	1943, 1944, 1948 and 1959
Birmingham Black Barons	California Winter League	1944-45
Jalisco Charros	Mexican League	1950
Los Angeles Angels	Pacific Coast League	1956
Fort Worth Cats	Texas League	1958
Stockham Valves and Fittings	Y.M.C.A. Industrial League	1965, 1966 and 1967

# Billy Raimondi's All-Stars Play Crescents Here Tomorrow

The Cincinnati Crescents All-Stars, celebrated Negro clowns of baseball, will have their work cut out when they clash with Catcher Billy Raimondi's Oakland All-Stars, tomorrow night at the Emeryville ball park.

Appearing against the Crescents, on route to the mainland after a banner Honolulu series of games, will be Bernie Uhal, Wally Westlake, Brooks Holde, Ferris Fain, Hugh Luby, Tom Hefey, Joe Spring; pitchers Tom Seats and Don Buxton and Shortstop Bill Rigney of the New York Giants. Sprinz and Raimondi will share backstop duty.

Manager Abe Saperstein's band of colored stars combine classy baseball and comedy, boasting of such featured performers as First Baseman Reece (Goose) Tatum and Lorenzo (Piper) Davis, acknowledged Negro baseball's greatest second baseman.

10-16-46

PIRE CHIEFS		AB	R	H	E
Ashmore, cf	5	0	0	0	0
R. Long, ss	4	0	0	1	1
B. Long, lb	2	3	1	0	0
Marshall, lf	4	1	1	1	1
Johnson, 3b	4	1	2	0	0
Clayton, rf	4	1	2	0	0
Gude, cf	0	0	0	0	0
Hardick, 2b	4	2	2	1	1
M. Charley, c	4	1	1	1	1
Kish, p	4	0	2	0	0
33 9 11 4					

OMAHA TIGERS		AB	R	H	E
Lorenzo, 3b	5	1	3	0	0
Renson, c	5	1	3	0	0
Mason, lb-p	4	0	0	1	1
McNeal, p	5	2	2	0	0
Jassie, ss	4	0	1	1	1
Louax, lf	4	0	2	0	0
Jordan, cf	4	0	0	0	0
Crump, 2b	4	0	0	1	1
Sprat, p-lb	4	1	1	0	0

09-19-35

## Black Barons Play Lloyd Wednesday

The Lloyd A. C.-House of David game scheduled for Monday night at Lloyd Field was postponed much to the dismay of the fans who were looking forward to the game with considerable interest.

Lou Murphy's boys are always crowd pleasers and the game was a "must" for Lefty Vann as he was keenly disappointed over an early season loss to the House. Dick Baker and Mike Janesco were to have been the opposing hurlers.

As Lloyd Field drains well, the two-day rain is not expected to mar a big battle arranged for Wednesday night. The famed Birmingham Black Barons will be here for a twilight encounter with Lloyd. Walt Masters of Remo Ciccone will be on the hill for Vann's men, and Dick Baker will be back at short after a week's lay-off. The game will start at 6.15.

7-23-46

Lloyd A. C.		ab	r	o	a	Birmingham B. B.		ab	r	o	a
Mellor, ss	4	2	1	3	0	Robinson, cf	5	1	5	0	2
Flic, 2b	4	1	3	6	0	Wilson, ss	5	2	0	2	0
Johnson, rf	4	0	2	0	0	Britton, 3b	4	0	0	3	0
Burns, 3b	4	0	1	1	0	Davis, 2b	3	3	3	3	0
Wearshing, lb	4	1	1	0	0	Steele, rf	5	2	2	0	0
Baker, lf	4	2	0	0	0	Chism, lf	4	1	5	0	0
Blong, cf	4	2	1	0	0	Moody, lb	3	0	9	0	0
Wynn, c	4	0	8	2	0	Bassett, c	4	2	3	0	0
Nolte, p	1	0	0	2	0	H'gsw'lh, p	4	1	0	2	0
Larc, p	1	0	0	0	0						
Totals		34	8	27	14	Totals		37	12	27	10
Birmingham		0	2	0	1	0		3	1	0	2
Lloyd A. C.		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1

Runs—Davis 3, Steele 2, Robinson, Wilson, Britton, Chism, Wearshing. Runs batted in—Steele 3, Bassett 3, Davis, Chism, Blong. Two-base hits—Flic, Davis 3, Chism, Bassett, Baker, Wearshing. Double plays—Britton to Davis to Moody. Stolen bases—Britton. Struck out—by Nolte 7, Larc 1, Hollingsworth 3. Bases on balls—off Nolte 4, Hollingsworth 1. Losing pitcher—Nolte. Umpires—Gilbert and Shulman.

08-11-47

## EXHIBITION BASEBALL

- Major League ALL STARS
- Vs.—
- Birmingham BLACK BARONS

SATURDAY NITE  
OCT. 14th  
8:00 P. M.

CITY PARK  
Gadsden, Ala.

Admission: Advance ..... \$1.50  
Gate ..... \$1.75  
Children ..... 75c  
All Prices Include Tax

SECTION FOR WHITE FANS

Tickets On Sale At:  
Gem Theatre  
Red Star Barber Shop  
Flacher's Barber Shop

10-11-50

## Feller Holds Royals, 2-1

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 16. (AP) Bob Feller, pitching four innings, held the Kansas City Royals to no runs and four hits while he was on the mound as his All-Stars took a 2-1 win over the Royals in an exhibition baseball game last night.

Satchel Paige was the starting hurler for the Royals when Dan Bankhead, scheduled to open on the mound, failed to show. Paige worked four innings, fanning seven while Feller was whiffing two.

Jeff Heath paced the All-Stars' attack. He drove in the first run in the fourth with an outfield fly when Ken Keltner was on third. He singled to drive Ralph Kiner home in the seventh. The Royals' lone run came on a Piper Davis homer in the seventh.

10-16-47

# BASEBALL TONIGHT—8:30 Birmingham Black Barons

(Negro American League)

In Their First Appearance In This Region

Vs.

## College Hill Chix

Central Pennsy Champions

Coble Grimes Stadium

Fredericksburg

08-11-47

## Selected Career Highlights

- Helped lead ACIPCO to five straight Birmingham Industrial League championships (1939-1943). Finished his career in the Birmingham Industrial League with a .410 career batting average.
- Posted a .348 career batting average in the Negro Leagues.
- Posted a lifetime career batting average of .309.
- Negro League East-West All Star team (1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1959).
- Appeared in three Negro League World Series (1943, 1944 and 1948).
- California Winter League All Star team (1945).
- Managed the Birmingham Black Barons to two Negro American League championships (1948 and 1959).
- Puerto Rican Winter League All Star team (1948-49)
- Appeared in three Caribbean World Series tournaments (1949, 1952 and 1953).
- First African-American ball player to play in the Boston Red Sox organization. Piper was signed by the Scranton Red Sox of the Eastern League in 1950.
- Pacific Coast League All Star team (1954 and 1956).
- Played all nine positions in one game on two different occasions (1952 and 1958).
- Besides being a baseball star, Piper was an outstanding basketball player. He played five seasons and was the road manager for three seasons with the world famous Harlem Globetrotters.
- Member of sixteen (16) championship teams: ACIPCO – Birmingham Industrial League (1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1965, 1966 and 1967), Birmingham Black Barons – Negro American League (1943, 1944, 1948 and 1959), Birmingham Black Barons – California Winter League (1944-45), Jalisco Charros – Mexican League (1950), Los Angeles Angels – Pacific Coast League (1956) and Fort Worth Cats – Texas League (1958).
- First African American scout in the Detroit Tigers organization.
- Alabama Sports Hall of Fame (1993).





*Piper Davis*

**Oakland  
Oaks**

