THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE

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WHAT'S THE NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE?

• The Negro national league (NNL) was the first successful professional African American baseball league.

• Andrew "Rube" Foster founded league along with the YMCA in Kansas City, Missouri in 1920.

• The new league’s initial members included teams: Chicago American Giants, Indianapolis ABCs, Chicago Giants, Kansas City (Missouri) Monarchs, Detroit Stars, St. Louis Giants, Dayton (Ohio) Marcos, and the Cuban Stars.

• The league succeed to due to the great migration, the base boom, and Rube Foster’s leadership.

• After Rube Foster died, the league passed away with him as well.
WHY DID PREVIOUS LEAGUES NOT SUCCEED?

- One of the first attempts was in 1907 with the International League of Independent Professional Baseball Club.
- The league did not have a clear plan on how the teams would be organized and how the team owners would make a profit thus businessmen were reluctant to get involved.
- Another attempt was the National Negro Baseball in 1910, they lacked the capital needed to start the league.
- Due to the absence of financing and organizational skills, the establishment of Negro leagues continued to fail.
RUBE FOSTER

- **Known as the Father of Black Baseball**
- **Played for Waco Yellow Jackets, Chicago Union Giants, Cuban X-Giants, and Leland Giants in Chicago**
- **Foster began writing for the Chicago Defender in late November of 1919.**
- **Foster was named treasurer and president**
- **While managing the league Foster remained the coach for the American Giants**
- **Inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981**
GREAT MIGRATION 1916-1970

- **African Americans** were encouraged to leave the harsh segregated south and move to the northern cities to acquire economic stability.

- With the transition from rural farmers to blue collar workers, now have little extra spending money and more leisure time.

- Also, individuals live much closer together, thus making it easier for people to convene.

- Thus creating an audience for the NNL.
THE BASEBALL BOOM

• With the introduction of new technology, notably the radio, and the increase in newspaper reporting on baseball games, sports became more accessible to the public.

• The "Kansas City Monarchs, for example, spent $7,000 one year on publicity for their ball club which, this was even more than they spent on transportation.

• Newspapers began to have a regular sports section detailing games, scores and other information.

• Due to the increase in the press and with the addition of the radio, baseball became increasingly popular and aided the success of the Negro National League.
Standing Left to Right
Mgr Taylor - Palms, C - Trent, P - Suttles, 1st - J. Williams, P
Hensley, P - Wells, SS - H. Williams, C - Greacy, 3rd

Sitting
Bat Boy - J. Russell, 2nd - Bell, C.F - B. Russell, RF
Cannon, P - Davis, P - Redus, L.F - McDonald, P

St. Louis Stars
World's Champions
National Negro League
World Series (2 Games)

1922
TO CONCLUDE

- The Negro National League success was to the
  - Great migration
  - The Baseball boom
  - Rube Foster's Leadership
  - And perfect timing