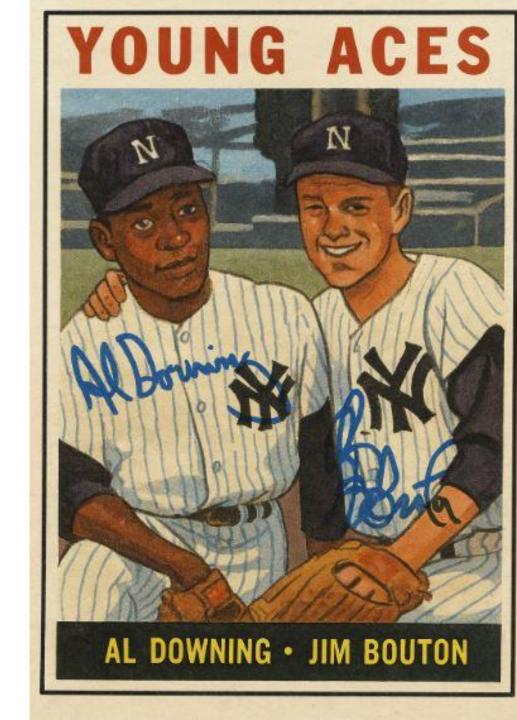
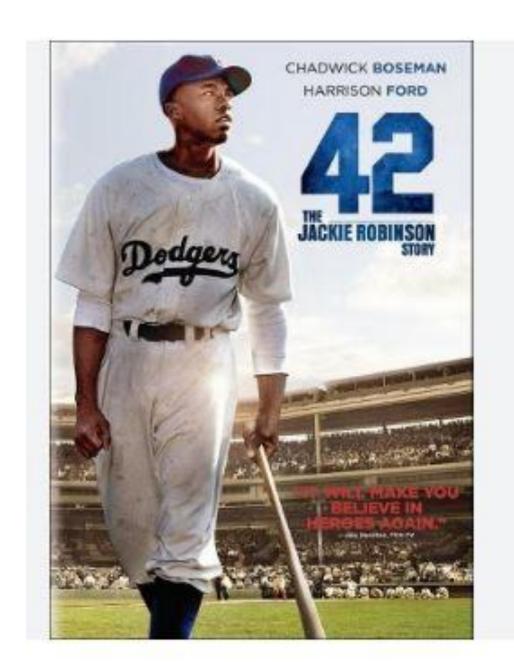
From the Negro Leagues to the Majors: The Untold Story the Integration of Baseball From 1947 - 1973

> Presented by: Liam O'Neill Associate Prof. at UNT Email: liamodwyer390@gmail.com

Date: October 7, 2025



Starting
Point –
Released in
2013



Dodgers retire the number 42 in 1972

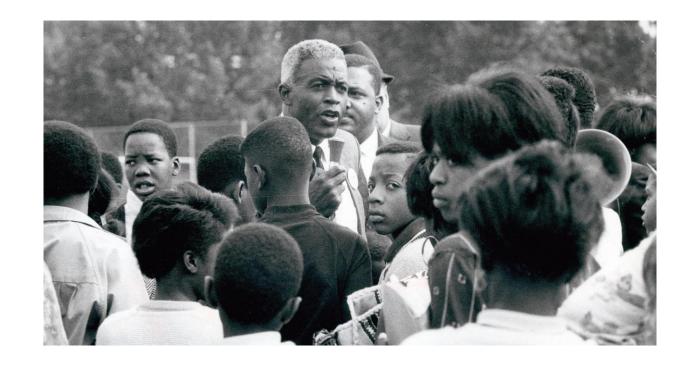


Why Jackie Moved on From Baseball.

- Jackie "broke up" with the Dodgers and baseball itself.
- Why?
- Dodgers traded him to the Giants in 1957
 - Jackie retired from the game.
- Things Jackie never did
 - No old timers' games
 - No baseball card shows
- His involvement in politics and civil rights movement.
- Had a difficult life even after baseball.
- Excellent Book "I Never Had it Made." his memoir.

Jackie dies in October, 1972

- Died at 53 years old
 - Two weeks after appearing at 1972 World Series.
 - Complications due to diabetes and heart disease.
 - His work was unfinished.
- His teammate Gil Hodges died
 - April, 1972
 - 47 years old.
 - Mets Manager in 1969
 - Mets win the World Series.



How I became interested in this topic..

- Started from collecting vintage baseball cards.
- Why I Love Vintage baseball cards ...
- "I collect the cards I could not afford to buy as a kid."
- Possibility for "Time Travel"...
- Authenticity ...
- Players have stood the test of time..



My Favorite Jackie Card



Main Points

- The story of Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers has been told many times.
- The purpose of this talk is to provide a broader social and historical context.
- The process of integration took almost 30 years!
- It was an incremental process.
- Many "early pioneers" followed in Jackie's footsteps.
 - Their stories are mostly forgotten.

Main Points

- We address some common myths or misconceptions regarding the story of Jackie Robinson..
- Problem I have ...
 - So much information ... so little time!
- How I tell this story
 - Vintage Baseball Cards...
 - Style of ..
 - Graphical Novel and
 - Comic Books.

Main Points

- We address some common myths or misconceptions regarding the story of Jackie Robinson..
- Problem I have ...
 - So much information ... so little time!
- How I tell this story
 - Vintage Baseball Cards..
 - Style of ..
 - Graphical Novel and
 - Comic Books.

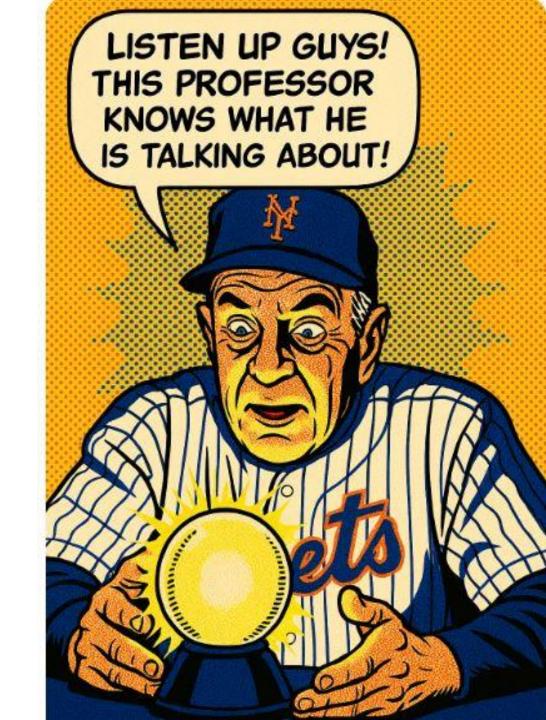


Main Questions

- Why did it take so long for baseball to become fully integrated?
- What were some key milestones along the way?
- Who were some of the colorful characters?
- How has baseball changed?
- How has society changed?

Main Questions

- Why did it take so long for baseball to become fully integrated?
- What were some key milestones along the way?
- Who were some of the colorful characters?
- How has baseball changed?
- How has society changed?



Most Pressing Questions of the Day!!

- How fast was Cool Papa Bell?
- Could you get a hit off Satchel Paige? (No!)
- How fast was Jackie Robinson?
- What was the worst trade in baseball history?
 - Cubs trade Lou Brock to the Cardinals.
- Why did the Red Sox lose the 1967 World Series?
 - Was it the "Curse of the Bambino?"
 - Cosmic Karma?
 - Or simply bad management?
- Was Willie Mays catch in the 1954 World Series
 - The greatest catch of all time?

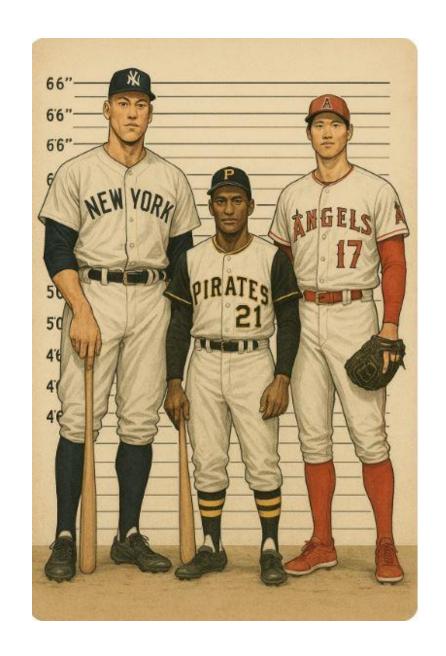


What does "the Babe" and Ohtani have in common?



How can we compare the best players from different eras?

Roberto Clemente was 5 feet 11 inches 170 lbs Hit 240 home runs!

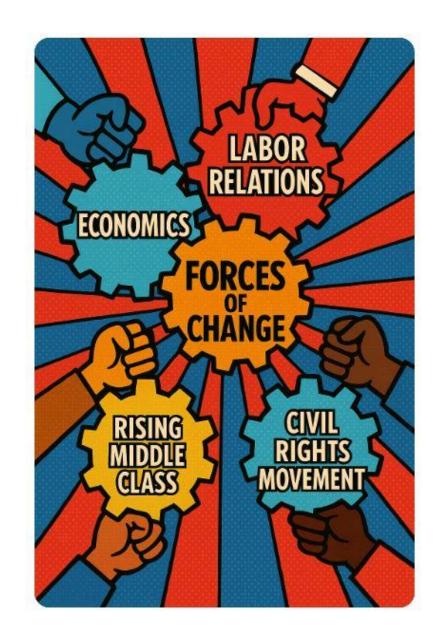


Looking Back

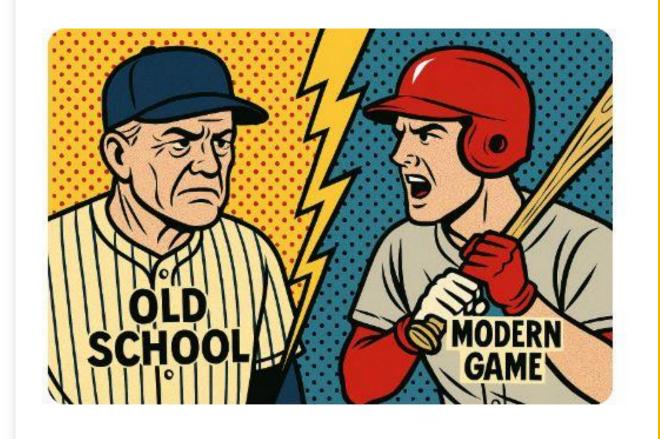
- Integration of Baseball was inevitable
- Driven by forces such as
 - Economics
 - Labor Relations –
 - Rising Middle Class
 - Changing Demographics
 - Civil Rights Movement
- The ways of the "old school" totally incompatible with
 - The modern game...



Forces of Change



Baseball's Old School



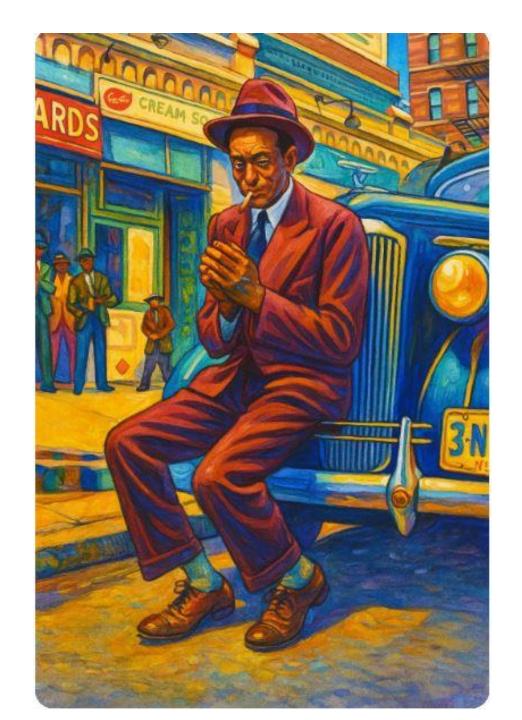
Thought Experiment

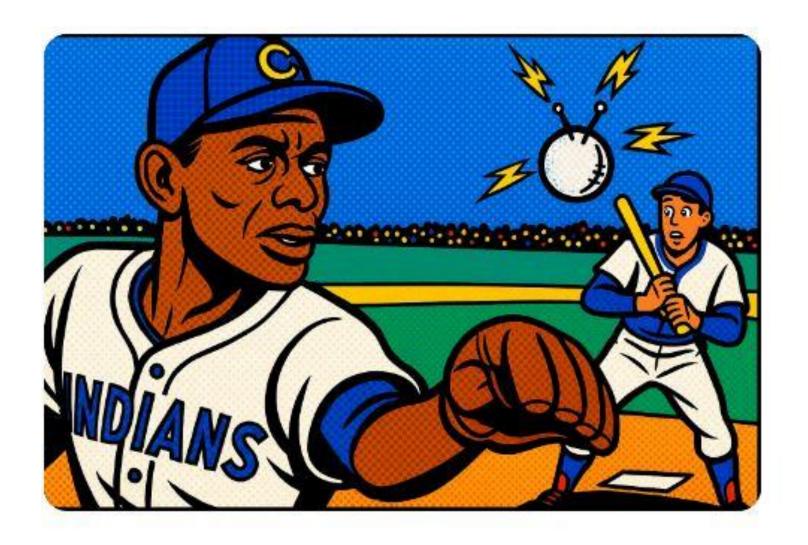
- Suppose someone else had been the first Black player to play in the major leagues.
- Consider what if the first Black player had been:
 - Satchel Paige
 - Ernie Banks
 - Roy Campanella



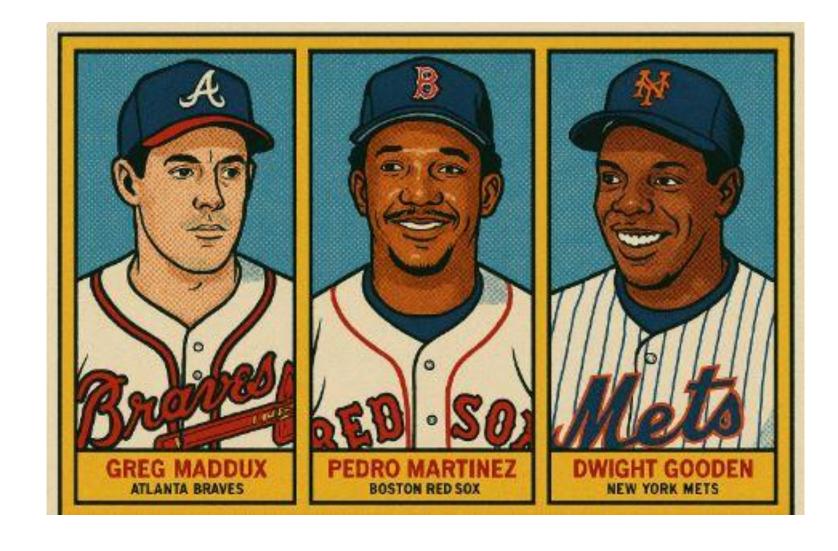


Meanwhile, back in Harlem



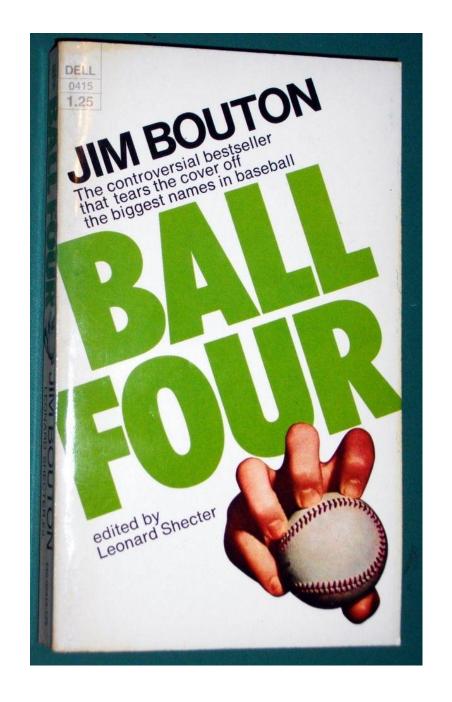


Satchel Unleashes the "Radio Ball" What made Satchell so good



Baseball Memoir

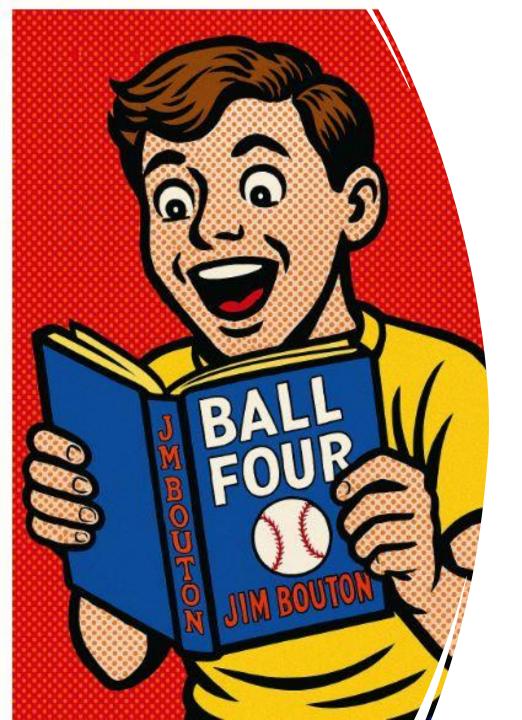
- Jim Bouton's Ball Four..
 - Published in 1970
 - Cause a huge uproar!
 - Considered one of the greatest sports books of all time.
 - Sold 5.5 million copies.
- Some Deep Questions
 - What is the meaning of happiness?
 - How can you be a "good person" in a complex world?
 - Critics said
 - Bouton violated the "sanctity of the locker room"
 - What if his teammates did not want to be written about?



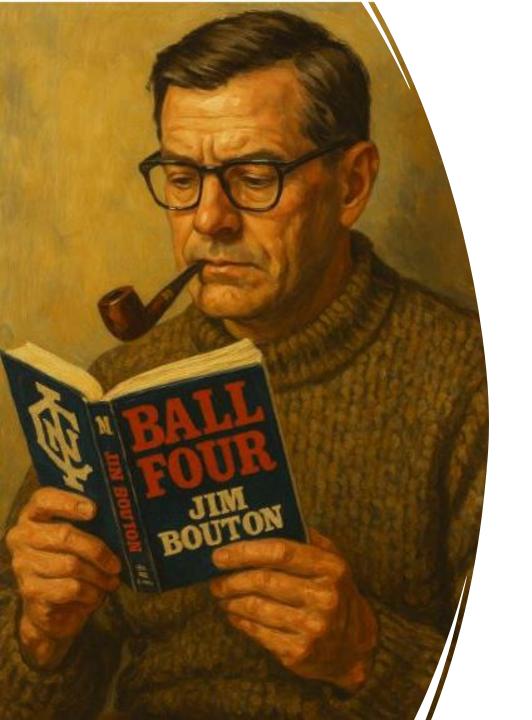
Jim Bouton

- A man ahead of his time..
- He dragged baseball
 - From the 1960s
 - Into the 1970s...
- A genius at sports marketing

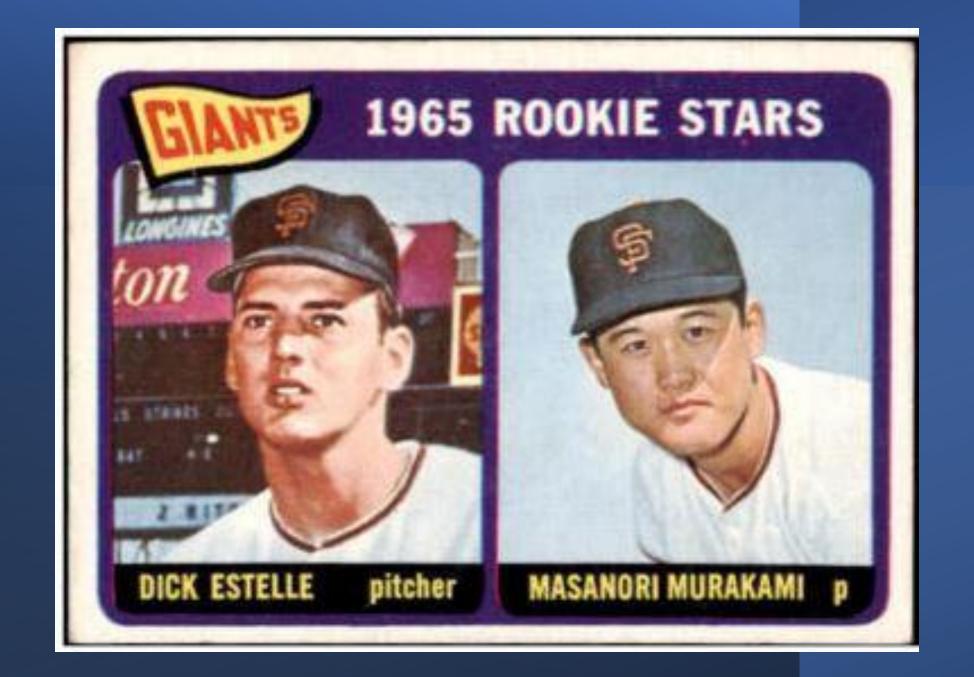




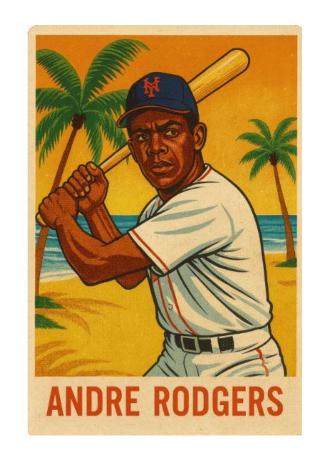
Baseball Memoir – Myself at age 12

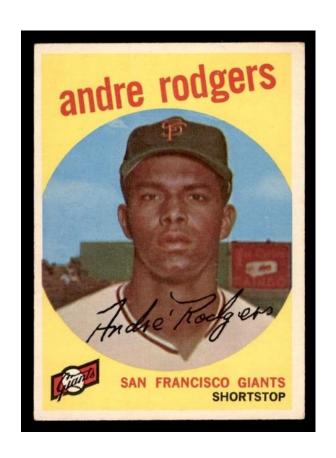


Baseball Memoir – Myself at 53



Andre Rogers – "The Natural"



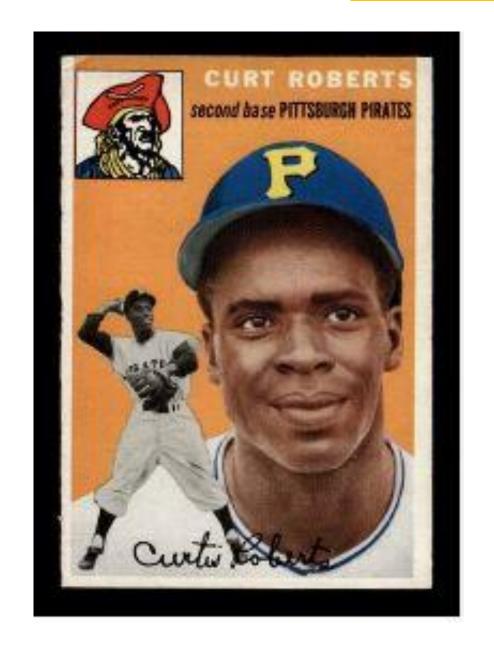


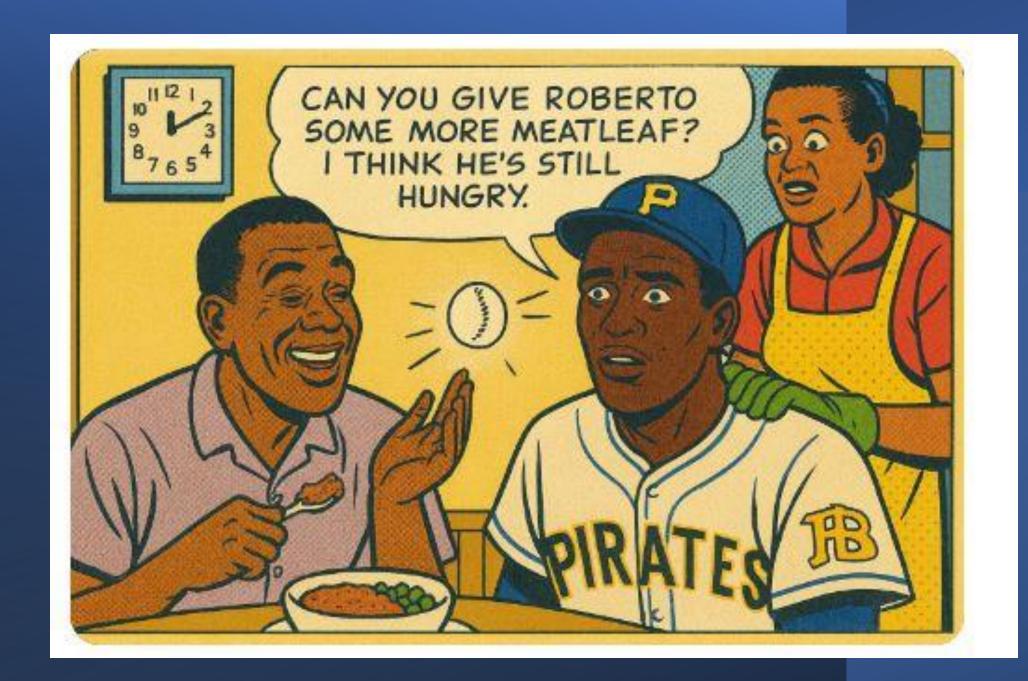
Height: 6' 3"

Weight: 185

Shortstop.

First Black Player for the Pirates





Learning Objectives/ Main Takeaways

- An Homage to the "unsung heroes" unsung heroes.
 - Tell their stories
 - Recognize their contributions...
 - Honor their sacrifice.
- Remembering
 - It's not about wins and losses how many home runs you hit
 - It's about the world you leave behind.
 - It's about the impact your life has on others.

Historical Airbrushing...

- History is always
- A simplification of the real story
- We tend to forget or gloss over
- Things that are difficult...
- Things that are painful
- Things that are hard to remember.
- The filter is called "nostalgia."
- Let us go back to 1945
 - Why was baseball segregated?



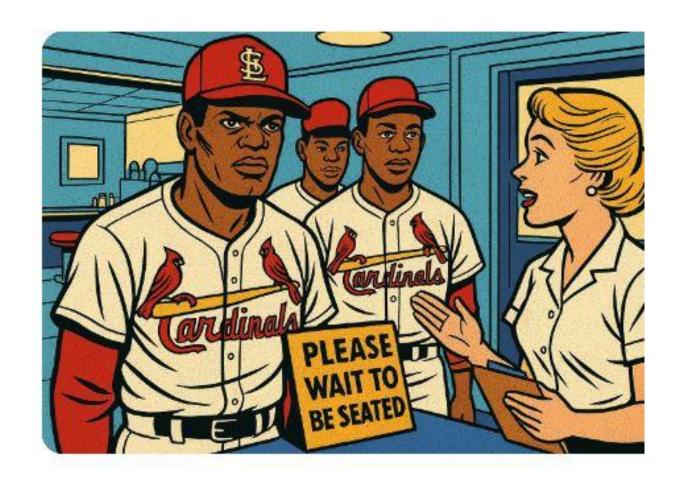
Bob Gibson and Curt Flood

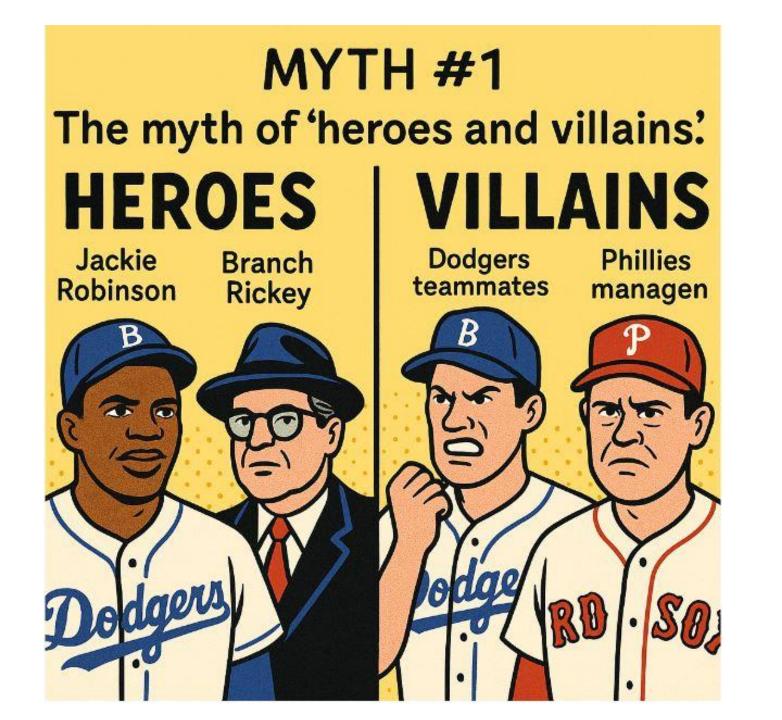
• Time: 1964

• Place: St. Petersburg, FL

• Stopping at a diner

• For some breakfast





Myths and Misconceptions

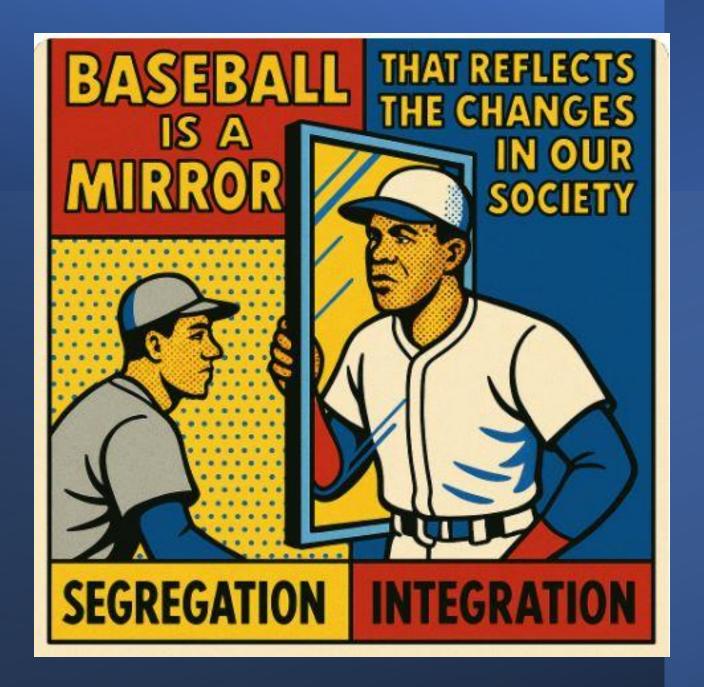
- Myth # 1: The myth of "heroes and villains."
 - Heroes: Jackie Robinson, Branch Rickey
 - Villains: Dodger teammates who resisted, Phillies manager Ben Chapman
- Myth # 2: Racial prejudice was confined to certain regions of the country.
 - That is, The South.
- Myth # 3: Jackie Robinson believed in "turning the other cheek."

Barriers to Overcome --

Not just changing attitudes of individuals

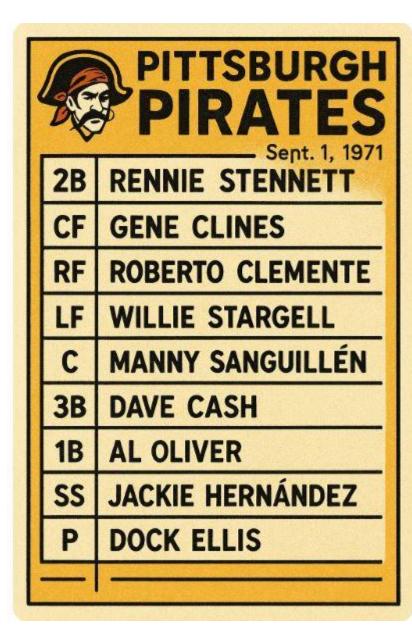
About Changing Organizations...

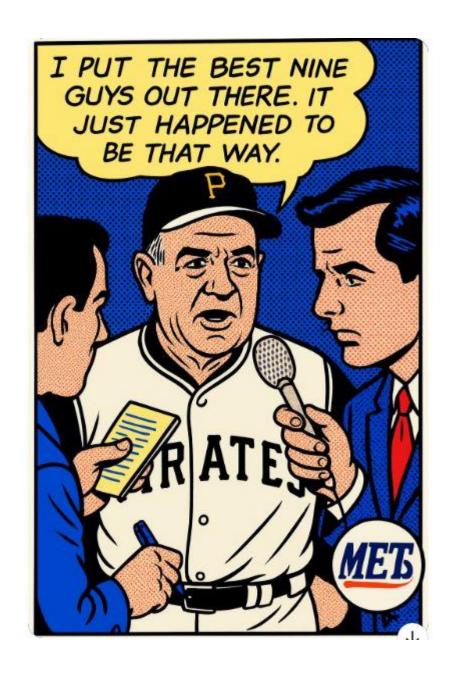
- About Changing Laws
 - 1964..



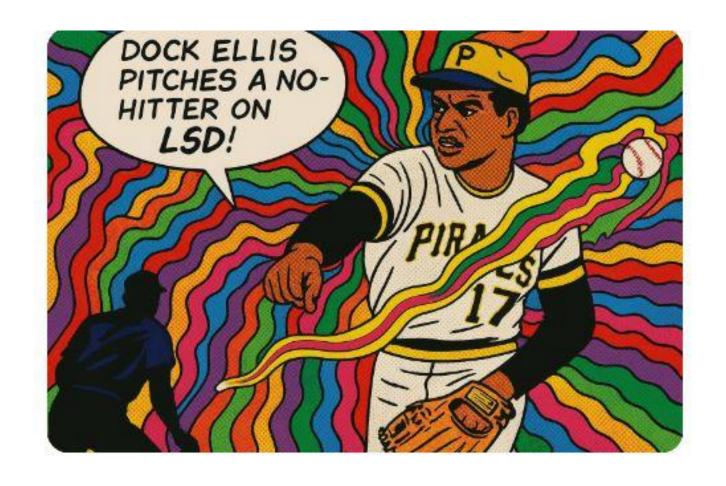
What happened in the early 1970s?

- First amateur draft happened in 1965
- 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates 9 Black players start a game.
- Curt Flood lawsuit 1972
- 1974 Baseball's first free agent Jim Catfish Hunter.
- 1973 American League adopts the designated hitter...
 - What does this have to do with racial integration?
- 1975 Frank Robinson becomes first black manager.





Dock Ellis a Throws No-Hitter:



Ted Williams – Induction into the Hall of Fame.

- "I hope that someday the names of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson can be added as a symbol of the great Negro League players that are not here only because they were not given the chance."
- Cooperstown, NY

