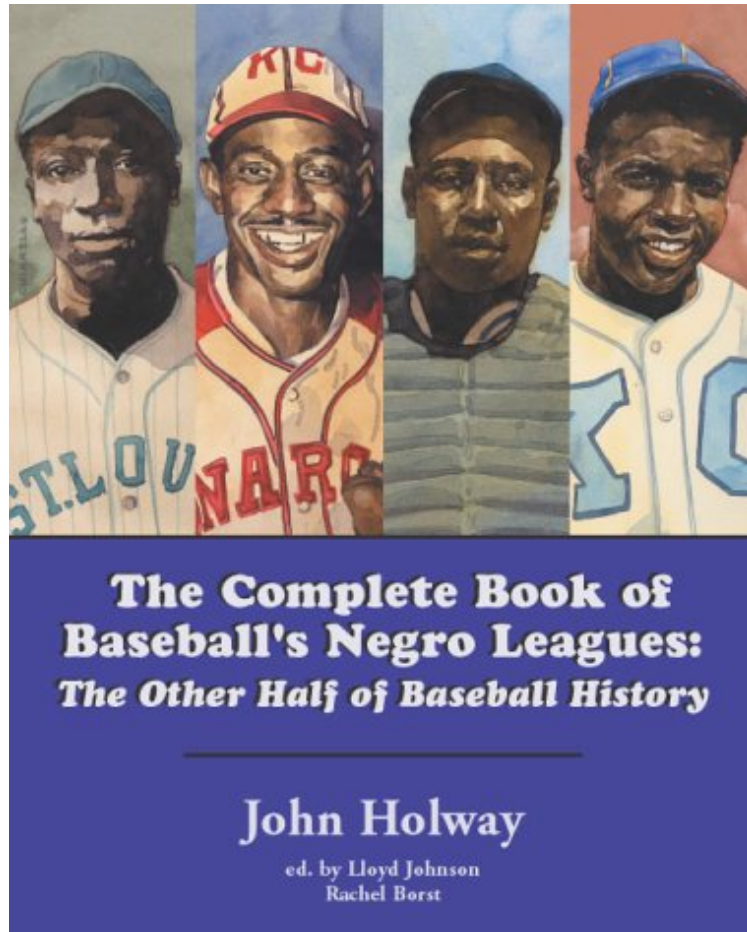


[Download free ebook] Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues

Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues

John B. Holway, Lloyd Johnson, Rachel Borst
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John B. Holway, Lloyd Johnson, Rachel Borst : Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues:

23 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Recommended for Negro League beginners, others buy w. careBy Paul R. HansonI should state here that I am glad I bought this book, it has several excellent features such as 1) descriptions of post-season Negro League series, games with whites and Cuban exhibitions against major league teams 2) it highlights previously unappreciated performances (see Mule Suttles' 1926 quintuple crown season); and 3) other useful information (such as Suttles' career averages before and after his 1927 beaming by Chet Brewer)If you have never previously purchased a book about the Negro Leagues, this is a 4 star purchase (one star off for the errata I will talk about later).However it was not what I expected. Based on the editorial reviews, I hoped for a "Baseball Encyclopedia" for the Negro Leagues, if not on a season by season basis, then certainly for career statistics of the most significant players. The book instead concentrates on a yearly history from 1859 to 1948, with emphasis on yearly

leaders, summary rosters and batting averages for those players. The "Statistical Record" comprises 13 pages at the back of the book. There are also frustrating contradictions with previously published information. The 10th edition of The Baseball Encyclopedia (TBE) published season and career statistics of about 130 stars. The author contributed to that publication. In his introduction to this book, the author explains that new sources of data have been used to arrive at the career statistics given in this book that supersede TBE. How then can John Beckwith and Biz Mackey have "lost" 11 and 10 career homers respectively in 560 and 1367 extra career at-bats? Clint Thomas is credited with 51 HR in TBE, but is not mentioned on the career HR list in this book, which goes down to Howard Easterling's 21. Also, the author still claims (page 229) that Ed "Yump" Jones caught both the 1926 and 1927 World Series' no-hitters, however, Dick Clark and Larry Lester's Negro Leagues Book states that William "Fox" Jones was the 1926 AC Bacharach Giants catcher. Clark and Lester supposedly proof read the manuscript of this book. Internal inconsistencies exist (e.g. the lack of cross-referencing of Mule Suttles' and Turkey Stearnes 1930 eastern and western statistics on pages 259 and 265, and on p26 Richard Harris scored 106 runs in 100 games but p105 shows him as making 106 hits in 100 games). Omissions - the statistical summaries of post-season series sometimes show less than 8 position players for one team. How can this be so if box scores are available from which to compile the summaries? Errata - the first half of the book in particular is littered with them. On p52, Nux James is listed as having a .375 BA for the Royal Giants, which would place him second in the batting race, but he is not listed with the leaders. This happens several times (e.g. Jap Payne p74, Lee Wade p76). Maybe there are minimum games or at-bats criteria, but this is not explained. On the same page, JH Lloyd is listed as both the second baseman and utilityman of the X-Giants, but with different batting averages of .108 and .000 respectively. On p62 the same Nux James is listed as having a .300 BA in the leaders, but .318 when listed with his team. On page 116 the triples figures are missing for the leaders. On p 165 Joe Rogan is listed as 5th with 13 triples in 1922, behind Charlie Blackwell and Heavy Johnson with 10 and 9 respectively. You can see a picture emerging. Computation errors - I have only found one (Lyman Bostock's career average computes to .368 not .341) but I am not about to check the whole book. All in all, I am still waiting for the various Negro Leagues' researchers to get together, develop a common definition of what constitutes a Negro League game and share their research databases to compile a Negro Leagues "Baseball Encyclopedia". It appears that the information is available, so I do not think that I want too much.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very informative
By Alverta Sneed
I am a baseball history buff...well documented information...a great gift as well as one to have in your own library..

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Part of the History of the Game not usually found.
By P. Elswick
First, let me say, I am a white woman. Not what most would consider the typical audience for this book. As a fan of the game of baseball and of history in general, I found this book very detailed about a part of the history of the game that was left out of most of the other baseball history books. Most baseball history books mention the Negro Leagues and some of the biggest stars or some of the ones who made it to the Major League after integration. They leave out the history of this league and its records and its average players that we never heard about but who gave it their all for the sport. The author does mention that statistics on the Negro League games were not all reported back then and may not be complete. This is not his fault but the fault of the papers and the teams from back then. Some papers didn't report these games and some teams didn't send in the box scores. However, the author made a great effort to gather all of the records that were available and save it for the history of the game. Overall, a great piece of history for the true baseball fan. I would also recommend "The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Baseball Desk Reference" by Lawrence Lorimer as a good reference for the history of Baseball. Baseball Desk Reference by Publishing, DK; Lorimer, Lawrence T. published by DK ADULT Hardcover

Using entire new sources of data, John B. Holway has produced the most authoritative work yet on the subject of the Negro Leagues.

From Library Journal
These two volumes contribute a good deal to the ongoing examination of the Negro Leagues. Holway, one of the deans of black baseball history, provides the most complete statistical accounting yet of the game's segregated half. The obvious by-product of painstaking research, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues presents a quick overview of African American participation from 1859 to 1882 and then an annual accounting through 1948, the year after Jackie Robinson entered the major leagues. Holway's contribution is noteworthy, covering won-loss records, batting records, and pitching performances. Textual commentary is sprinkled throughout, as are useful lists of lifetime batting and pitching leaders. But the story remains incomplete because of the paucity of written accounts, incomplete box scores, and a general failure on the part of black baseball management and journalists alike to provide a historical record for the most statistically conscious of all sports. McNeil's (The Dodgers Encyclopedia) undertaking is different, as he seeks to determine which Negro League participants should be included in the National Baseball Hall of Fame; at present, 17 have been admitted. Cool Papas and Double Duties calls on both former Negro Leaguers and black baseball historians to select those candidates, then offers a final selection and biographies of those chosen. Biz Mackey, Turkey Stearnes, Dick Lundy, Mules Suttle, and Hilton Smith received the greatest number of votes; Stearnes and Smith, in fact, have subsequently been elected to the hall. McNeil's work also presents all-time

Negro League all-star teams, with corresponding biographies. Enjoyable to course through, this book frequently enlightens but will in no way stop baseball fans and scholars from debating the various merits of the top performers. Both books are recommended for general libraries. R.C. Cottrell, California State Univ., Chico Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "...Holway is the granddaddy of researchers on black baseball...this book is a must read for every student and historian..." -- Robert Peterson - author, *Only the Ball Was White*"...Holway knows more about the Negro Leagues, the players, and the history of Negro League baseball than anyone alive today." -- Bob Feller, former Negro League star"...statistics that prove the greatness of the Negro League players. Now, we can truly call baseball the National Pastime." -- Ken Burns - Producer"Holway's latest book contains the most complete compendium of statistics available on the subject [of the Negro Leagues]." -- The Washington Post"I don't know anyone who writes about the Negro Leagues with the dedication of John Holway. He is the last word." -- Bowie Kuhn, Former Commissioner of Baseball"The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues is a compelling story and a must read for all baseball fans." -- Allan "Bud" Selig - Commissioner of Baseball

From the PublisherImagine the "major leagues" without Sammy Sosa, Ken Griffey, Jr., Pedro Martinez, and Derek Jeter. That's the "major leagues" that our great great grandfathers knew without Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, Oscar Charleston, Smoky Joe Williams, and all the other black greats before Jackie Robinson. In hundreds of reported (barnstorming) games against the best white players before baseball became integrated in 1947, these black major leagues won 53 percent. The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues is the most ambitious book ever undertaken on "the other half of baseball history." For the first time, almost every man who ever batted or pitched from 1862 to 1948 is listed, along with his annual batting average or won-lost record. It will change forever the way American baseball history is perceived and written. This book is the result of thousands of man-hours, both paid and volunteer, to ferret out and extract data from over 14,000 box scores. Almost every black paper published between was scoured, plus every white daily in cities with a Negro League team, and papers in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. The results have dispelled many long-held myths: Satchel Paige did not pitch in 3,000 games not win 1,000 of them...Josh Gibson did not hit 75 home runs in one years or 962 in a lifetime. (However, Josh would have hit 1,000 if he had come to bat as often as Hank Aaron). It has also give recognition to many long-overlooked stars of North American baseball. Bill Foster, not Paige, is the all-time leader in victories; John Beckwith and Jud Wilson are the all-time leaders in batting averages. The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues includes for the first time Latin American League games, where the rivalries forged in North America in the summer were continued with equal intensity in the winter. In these pages fans can read for the first time of Mule Suttles' mammoth home run to win the 1933 East-West (All Star) game in the 11th inning, the prodigious home run paces of Suttles and Gibson that threatened to topple Ruth's 60-home run record a decade after it was set, of Rube Foster's heroics in the first black World Series of 1903 and Josh Gibson's mammoth Yankee Stadium home run in the black World Series in 1930. The book includes details of every playoff and black World Series game, which were just as exciting as the gabled games of the white World Series. Is there anything in white history to equal the duel in the snow between Big Bill Foster and little Bullet Joe Rogan to settle the 1927 playoff - a duel won by Foster 1-0 and 5-0? The 1939 playoff battle between two future Hall of Fame catchers, the veteran Josh Gibson and the rookie Roy Campanella in a Series won by Campy's team? Or the moment in the 1942 black Series when Paige deliberately walked the bases loaded to pitch to Josh Gibson - then struck hom out? Had these happened in an integrated league, they would have dwarfed even the legend of Babe Ruth pointing to the bleachers, then slugging a homer in the 1932 white Series. Perhaps most eye-opening are the dozens of box scores between Negro League stars and stars of the major white leagues. The blacks won 53 percent of these games, and black hitters batted the same against top white rivals in October as they ahd against the best black players from May to September. These include epic battles between Walter Johnson and Smoky Joe Williams (Joe won 1-0)..between Ty Cobb and John Henry Lloyd (Lloyd won .500 to .369)..between Babe Ruth and Cristobel Torriente (the Cuban won, three home runs to none). We also learn of the off-the-field heroes, such as pitcher Doc Sykes, who was in the center of the notorious trial of "the Scottsboro Nine," one of the greatest civil rights dramas of the twentieth century and Monarchs coach J.L. Wilkinson, who in the 1940s was forced to sit and watch while major league scouts raided his teams, with no intention of ever paying him. In these pages the reader will find some of the most exciting baseball played in North America. Here is a whole new world waiting to be discovered by fans of all colors, young and old.