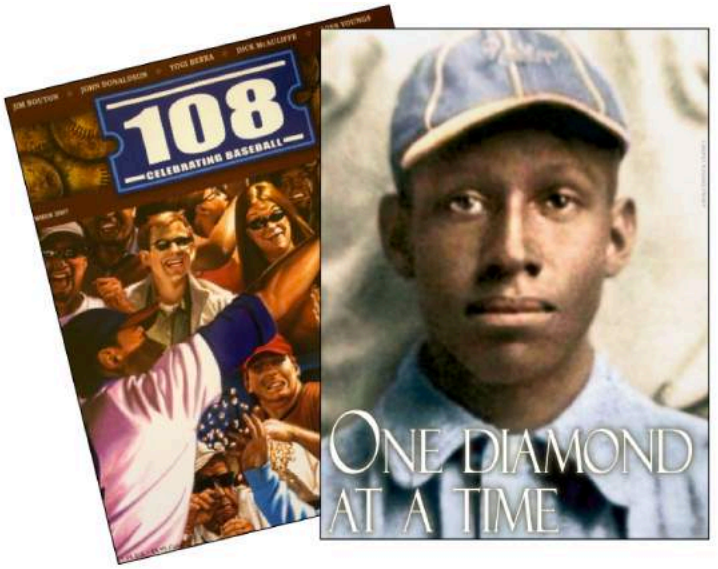
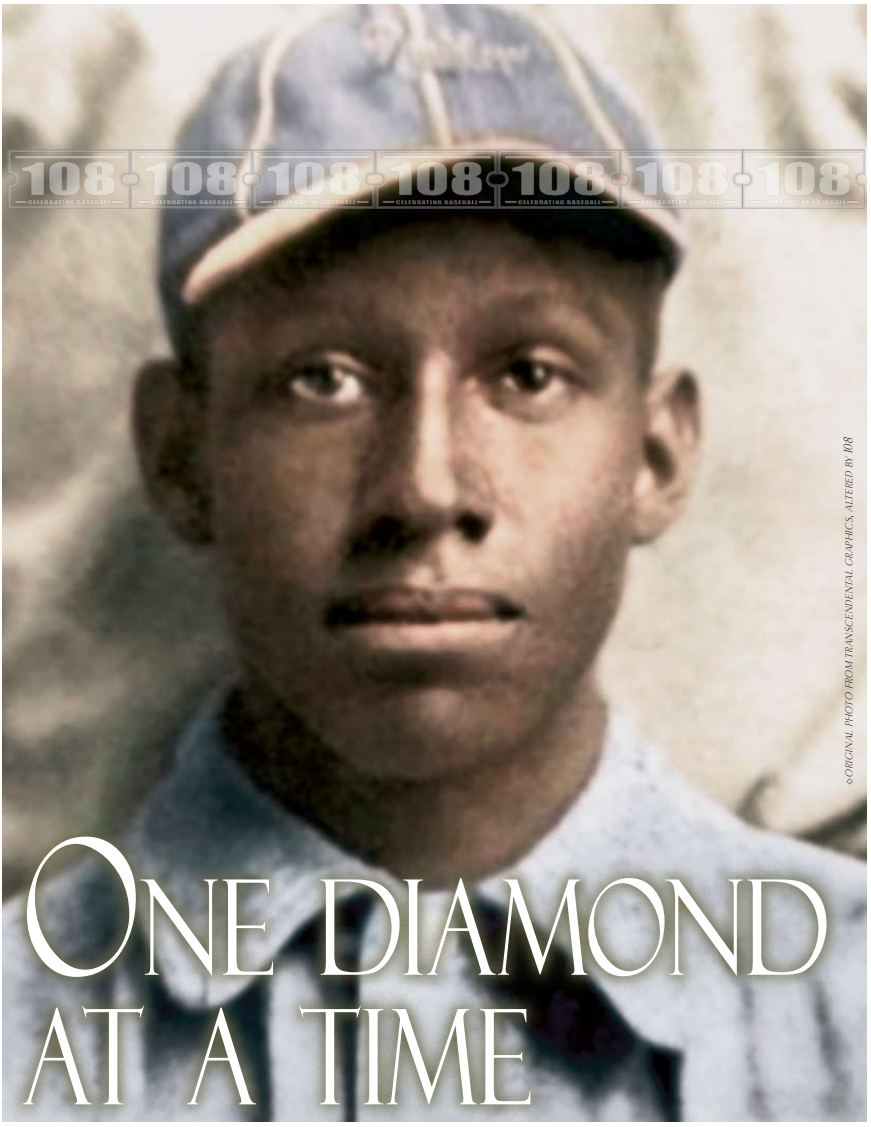
Document compiled from the files of The Donaldson Network





John Donaldson showed fans around the nation that character and skill do not depend on the color of a person's skin

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SUMMER
2007

◇ By Peter W. Gorton ◇

During the close of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th, small towns across the United States commonly pitted their local baseball teams against teams from other nearby communities. Deep rivalries were created among these teams and towns. These rivalries were not spawned by greed for prize money, but by something even more basic — regional bragging rights. Typical of these town ball rivalries were two Iowa communities: Fort Dodge and Lehigh.

Fort Dodge called itself a "baseball town." Every Sunday, fans in this rural Iowa community plunked down two bits to see their team match skills with teams from nearby towns or the

occasional barnstorming club. Several miles away lay Lehigh, a grittier agricultural and coal-mining town. Every year, Lehigh longed to beat Fort Dodge in their annual baseball grudge match; the neighboring town, not surprisingly, refused to cooperate. In September 1912, things would change in Lehigh's favor.

Rusty Whipple, one of the directors of the Lehigh ball club, cooked up an ingenious plan for winning the big game. Not only would Whipple's scheme give Lehigh bragging rights over its rival, Whipple believed it would place the terminally-in-the-red Lehigh Baseball Club back in the black. Fittingly, the money would come from Lehigh's own rivals. With the onset of autumn, some crops had been harvested and sold.

Deep-pocketed Fort Dodge backers, flush with the extra cash, were eager to bet on the big game. Whipple began to put his plan in motion.

Whipple arranged the purchase of 200 train tickets to transport Lehigh fans to Fort Dodge for the big fall matchup. Whipple, however, saved one ticket for a player who would ensure a victory for Lehigh, a win that would make Fort Dodge spend the entire winter contemplating its defeat. Whipple gave the ticket to a 21-year-old African-American pitcher from Missouri named John Wesley Donaldson. Whipple, however, didn't give the ticket to Donaldson because he was young or because he was an African American. The wisdom of Whipple's $75 investment (the amount Donaldson sought for his services) depended solely on Donaldson's skill on the mound — and he was very skilled.

The tricky part of the plan involved concealing the fact that John Donaldson was an African-American "ringer" pitcher on the all-white Lehigh team.

In addition to being one of the greatest southpaw pitchers of his era, Donaldson could swing the bat well enough to play outfield when he was unable to pitch. The above image was pulled from a recently uncovered hand-cranked film taken by Minnesotan Walter T. Oxley (1872-1955). Donaldson, playing for Bertha, Minnesota, takes his cuts against Battle Lake, Minnesota, pitcher Joe Jaeger, who played briefly for the Chicago Cubs. Bertha won the game, played in Fergus Falls, Minnesota in August 1925, 11-2. ◇*COURTESY W.T. OXLEY FAMILY*

If word got out that Donaldson was pitching for Lehigh, not even the most ardent Fort Dodge fan would risk his money. Complicating matters, the game was to be played on Fort Dodge's home field. As if the challenge wasn't big enough, Donaldson was no stranger to the Fort Dodge fans; they knew him well, for Donaldson had pitched for the barnstorming All Nations ballclub in Fort Dodge only days before, tossing a two-hit shutout, while striking out 21. With the All Nations team having just completed its inaugural season, Donaldson — on his way to becoming known as the "The World's Greatest Colored Pitcher" — was free to use his enormous talent in exhibition games. Undaunted, Whipple solved the puzzle.

The morning of the game dawned cool, yet holding the promise of late-summer heat. The Lehigh railway depot buzzed with passengers boarding for the trip to Fort Dodge. Almost the en-

tire Lehigh team had taken an earlier train to give the players plenty of time to warm up. Donaldson and Whipple, however, caught the last train scheduled to arrive in Fort Dodge before the 1 p.m. starting time.

Whipple's plan called for Donaldson to remain on the train, parked less than 50 yards from the field, until the umpire called out his name. While Donaldson waited, the local gamblers circulated through the stands, taking bets. Donaldson — young and hundreds of miles away from home — sat alone in the railway car, deep in thought. As he waited to take the ball in his hands, his thoughts drifted back to Glasgow, Missouri.

In another image pulled from the Oxley film, Donaldson fires a strike past an unidentified batter. In the August 1925 game between Bertha and Battle Lake, Donaldson struck out 18 and allowed only five hits, winning the game 11-2. ◇*COURTESY W.T. OXLEY FAMILY*

Finding his passion

A young African-American child growing up in the staunchly segregated community of Glasgow, Missouri, in the 1890s could look forward to precious few opportunities. No one could have foreseen the future of the son of an African-American woman and a white Irish-American father (who left Glasgow for parts unknown) as he played on the Glasgow sandlots.

Ida Donaldson, a devout woman, wanted her son John Wesley to become a preacher, like his namesake, a founder of the Methodist church. She insisted that he remain faithful to Christian teachings and to follow the "Golden Rule." Donaldson must have listened well to Ida's lessons. Written accounts of Donaldson's actions invariably mention his courtesy and respectful demeanor.

Although Donaldson wished to please his devout mother, Ida simply could not stop her son's deep desire to travel beyond his home town.

In the summer that Donaldson turned 13, a traveling minstrel show came to town. Donaldson peeked through the backstage door to catch a glimpse of the performance. Harry Gillam, the African-American stage manager for the troupe, noticed the curious teenager with the sparkling personality, and the two strangers conversed. Gillam shared stories of his life on the road with the wide-eyed youth. Gillam was a great musician; but he was even more of a showman — a flashy entertainer. Hearing the older man's tales, Donaldson longed to escape the limitations of the Mason-Dixon Line. Unlike Gillam, however, music would not be Donaldson's ticket to enter the wider world beyond the Glasgow city limits.

In the back-lots of Glasgow, Donaldson excelled at baseball, despite his mother's opposition to his participation in the game, an opposition she based on its rough reputation in that era. Donaldson, therefore, played ball on the sly. Left-handed and blessed with a strong arm, Donaldson was always called upon to pitch because he could throw the ball the farthest and the fastest. He quickly rose to prominence as the city's best pitcher.

Donaldson kept his renown as a baseball player hidden from Ida until the day she found a scorecard in his pants pocket. Ida saw the record of her son's hits, strikeouts, and putouts, and was shocked to learn he was playing a game of which she disapproved. Even more troubling to Ida, the scorecard revealed that her son had violated the Sabbath by pitching on a Sunday. Recognizing that she could not stop him from playing the game he loved, she made him vow never to play Sunday baseball or to even watch it.

Donaldson's oath lasted only for a short time. A few weeks later, his team called upon him to pitch in the area championship game — scheduled for a Sunday afternoon. After Sunday school, Donaldson slipped away from his mother and took his place on the mound. Having heard of the game, Ida deduced the truth and marched into the park, intending to whip her son soundly and send him home. As she entered the gate, however, she heard the crowd cheer and praise her son. She relented and became his most enthusiastic fan.

Donaldson sat in the empty railroad car waiting to make his dramatic appearance in Fort Dodge, Iowa. As a slight breeze carried the smell of freshly popped, home-grown popcorn — the ideal treat for a sunny Saturday afternoon — into the warm car, Donaldson smiled, wondering what his mother would think of her little boy now.

When Glasgow businessman Will Hannaca formed an all-black team, the Hannaca Blues, he penciled in the 17-year-old Donaldson as his pitcher and outfielder. Making excursions to nearby communities in the summers between 1908 and 1910, the hometown club traveled sparingly. Newspaper accounts show that the young Donaldson was beginning to turn heads everywhere he went.

In 1911, Donaldson hit the rails in earnest. The flamboyant W.A. Brown, owner and manager of Brown's Tennessee Rats Baseball Club and Minstrel Company based in nearby Holden, Missouri, plucked Donaldson away from Hannaca's Blues. Brown had managed traveling teams for years and had paved a well-worn track to the cities of the Upper Midwest. The Tennessee Rats arrived in a town, set up a tent to host the minstrel show, and played a baseball game before crammed stands.

In the early spring of 1912, Donaldson left Brown and the Rats and signed a contract with J.L. Wilkinson's All Nations team. Donaldson quickly became the staff ace, well-known as a strikeout pitcher. With each passing game, his reputation grew. Newspapers hyped the games between the local teams and the multicultural, barnstorming ballclub. One paper called him the "sensation of the day;" still another chimed, "Donaldson, Great Negro Hurler;" and another proclaimed him as the "Big Smoke" as Donaldson's reputation expanded. In many communities he was the first black pitcher fans had ever seen, and his lightning fastball and arching curve left lasting impressions on fans across the Midwest — including those sitting in the stands that September afternoon in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The heat of battle

Umpire Harry Dressinger, doubling as public address announcer, proclaimed the starting lineups for both teams, beginning with Fort Dodge. When the raucous crowd had ceased cheering its hometown heroes, the umpire ran through the first eight players for Lehigh. As he rattled off the names, the gamblers could be heard shouting out wagers. Finally, Dressinger declared, "In the box for Lehigh … John Donaldson." The Lehigh faithful screamed at the top of their lungs as Donaldson stepped from the train and jogged to the hill in a Lehigh uniform.

It didn't take long for Donaldson to take command. He struck out the first eight batters without the ball ever touching a bat. Finally, the ninth Fort Dodge batter managed a foul tip. The home fans shrieked with excitement, pounding the grandstand until it shook.

"They've found him, they've found him." Their taunts were short-lived, however, as Donaldson flashed his toothsome smile, struck out his ninth victim, and continued to fan 14 of the first 15 batters sent to the plate.

Frustrated and angry, many of the Fort Dodge fans lashed out at Donaldson, with disgusting slurs and invective. The atmosphere was getting ugly and almost beyond control. The boiling point came when the Fort Dodge catcher struck out on three pitches and took offense at Donaldson's smile, charging the mound with his bat held high. Ultimately, cooler heads prevailed and order was re-established. The catcher, whose behavior was "universally condemned" by both Lehigh and Fort Dodge fans, was physically removed from the field.

Whipple's plan had worked like clockwork. Through his complete game shutout, with 18 strikeouts, Donaldson had almost single-handedly erased the red ink from the accounts of the Lehigh

club. His name became a local legend as fans for more than two generations would recount the day John Donaldson appeared from a railway car and brought Lehigh a glorious victory over Fort Dodge.

Growing legend

Donaldson's performance that warm September day was only a harbinger of the feats to come.

Donaldson spent the next five seasons traveling with the All Nations team, leaving behind tales of his legendary conquests along the way. In June 1913, Donaldson whitewashed the local ballclub from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, leaving the local sluggers in awe. Batters complained that they could not make contact with Donaldson's fastball because "the ball looks like a pea when it comes over home plate."

Two months later, a Mankato, Minnesota, sportswriter reported: "To say that he was a whirlwind tied up in several

Thirty-seven years after the famous Lehigh-Fort Dodge game, Donaldson at age 58 stands in his uniform next to Rusty Whipple at the annual Lehigh old-timers game in September 1949. Donaldson pitched three scoreless innings, striking out six, in front of 3,000 fans

◇*COURTESY LEHIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

knots would be putting it too mildly. He struck out twenty-one men out of a possible twenty-four in the eight innings he pitched, and the first three men went down on the first nine balls pitched. The first twelve men who faced him fanned the air three times and quit."

Other small town newspapers furthered Donaldson's reputation, declaring that Donaldson's "delivery is nearly as swift as lightning" and that sometimes "the batter was just preparing to swing the bat when the ball would already be tucked away in the catcher's glove." Others described Donaldson's fastball with hyperbole reminiscent of that later attributed to Satchel Paige. "On a bright day his fast one looks like a small bean, but on a dark day … it looks like — nothing at all."

The All Nations, however, had other weapons besides Donaldson. Wilkinson augmented his already-formidable pitching staff with Cuban pitcher José Méndez, a future Hall of Famer. Méndez spoke for virtually every person who ever played for Wilkinson when he described the owner as "the best American living, [who] knows the game from A to Z," and asserted that "he treats all men fairly." With Méndez paired with Donaldson, the All Nations barnstormed with the duo pitching on successive days. Wilkinson proclaimed that Donaldson and Méndez were "two of the greatest pitchers who ever stepped on a ball field." Still, Wilkinson's actions showed the esteem in which he held Donaldson.

Typically, Sunday's crowd was the largest and the largest purse for the winners came on the Sabbath. Winners took home 60 percent of the gate receipts to

the losers' 40, so it was advantageous to win when the crowds were the largest. Wilkinson, therefore, reserved his best pitcher for the big games to optimize his profits. Donaldson always took his turn on Sunday.

The 1915 season saw Donaldson perform his greatest feat. In May, he reportedly threw 30 consecutive no-hit innings. As a result of this incredible accomplishment, Donaldson's deeds spread from coast to coast through the country's primitive newspaper wire services. One such article, entitled "Great Pitchers Barred From Majors," outlined Donaldson's career as well as those of Méndez and Chicago's Frank Wickware. Although this notoriety bestowed on African-American athletes marked a change in tone within the color line, it did not result in a change in policy. According to one observer, "The color line so tightly drawn around major league baseball [had] barred from major league fields three of the greatest pitchers the game has ever produced."

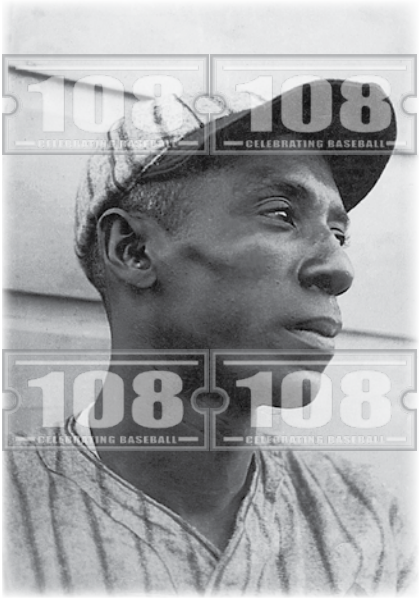
Chicago newspapers proclaimed Donaldson superior to any pitcher within the White Sox or Cubs major league organizations, and that "colorphobia" was the only thing keeping him out. Hall of Fame manager John McGraw of the New York Giants wished he could make use of Donaldson's tremendous talent and pitching skills: "If Donaldson were a white man or if the unwritten law of baseball didn't bar negroes from the major leagues, I would give $50,000 for him — and think I was getting a bargain."

Riding the wave of his well-established fame, Donaldson attempted to take full advantage of his marketability by brokering his offseason services to owners who wished to cash in on his fame and name recognition. Donaldson, however, discovered that not all owners had the sterling character and integrity of J.L. Wilkinson.

Donaldson spent the winter months prior to the start of the All Nations' 1917 campaign with the Los Angeles White Sox of the California Winter League. The Los Angeles Times touted him as the "colored Rube Waddell," comparable to the pitcher who led the American League in strikeouts for six consecutive seasons in the prior decade. Donaldson's winter season with the Los Angeles White Sox, however, ended prematurely when the team refused to make the total payment for his services.

In the 1917 season, in addition to its usual barnstorming schedule against top local teams, the All Nations club continued a competition that had

started in 1916 with some of the top teams in all-black baseball. With Donaldson continuing in his role as staff ace, Wilkinson bolstered his multi-racial lineup with the addition of budding superstars like Cristobal Torriente. All Nations won its 12-game series with the Indianapolis ABCs, the



José Méndez, a recent Hall of Fame inductee, shared the pitching load with Donaldson on the All Nations club. After completing the touring season, Mendez returned to his native Cuba, where he was called "The Black Diamond," to play winter baseball and to see his mother and bring her presents. His typical gift was $150 in gold. ◇*TRANSCENDENTAL GRAPHICS*

reigning champs of black baseball. In addition, they defeated Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants in another series. Unfortunately, the institution of the wartime draft interrupted the All Nations season as Uncle Sam sent draft notices to many of the players.

In 1918, after the First World War resulted in the demise of the All Nations ballclub, C.I. Taylor of the Indianapolis ABCs brought in Donaldson to bolster his pitching staff. As happened in California, after several weeks Taylor reneged on his original pledge of $250 a month and insisted that Donaldson accept a reduced paycheck of $100 per month. An outraged Donaldson refused and took his services further east.

Nat Strong, the behind-the-scenes power broker of black baseball in the New York City area, recruited Donaldson to join his Brooklyn Royal Giants to pitch against the New York Lincoln Giants, his strongest crosstown rivals. This gave Strong a better chance to beat the Hall of Fame black hurler "Smokey" Joe Williams.

New York's African American newspaper welcomed Donaldson with a banner headline:

"DONALDSON TO PITCH FOR ROYAL GIANTS."

The paper described him as "one of the greatest pitchers in the country," who had been "pitching such sensational baseball through out the middle west the past several seasons."

Manager John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, a future Hall of Famer, was pleased to have Donaldson on his pitching staff as he was "the highest salaried colored baseball player who ever wore a uniform."

Lloyd dubbed Donaldson the toughest pitcher he had ever faced. Lloyd was not the only future Hall of Famer that held Donaldson in high regard.

According to the *Ironwood [Michigan] Daily Globe*, Ty Cobb — putting aside his well-known racial prejudices — considered Donaldson as one of the three greatest hurlers he had ever seen.

A new challenge

When Rube Foster formed the Negro National League in 1920, black baseball entered its golden age. The lone white owner of a franchise in the newly-organized league, Wilkinson gathered the core players from the ranks of his old All Nations team to form his new Kansas City Monarchs. Included among the former All Nations players were Donaldson and Méndez. Donaldson hoped to assume a primary role in the organization as the club's manager, but Wilkinson passed over him, selecting Méndez. Donaldson, his arm suffering after years of throwing on limited rest while criss-crossing the country, became the everyday center fielder, where his athletic ability allowed him to hit over .300.

Another future Hall of Famer, Wilber "Bullet Joe" Rogan, carried the bulk of the pitching load for the Monarchs. During Donaldson's three years in the Negro Leagues, the Monarchs rarely used him as a pitcher except at select times against teams that featured primarily left-handed batters.

In the summer of 1922, Wilkinson revived the All Nations ballclub and kept the barnstorming team on the road for two years (1922 to 1923), this time as an all-black team. Wilkinson asked Donaldson to be the foundation of the team and serve as a mentor for the newly discovered talents that Wilkinson signed. Contemporary newspapers reported that the resurrected All Nations team was "used as a school for players of color who wish to reach a pinnacle in baseball. The

boys are taught the fine points in baseball and when ripe are given a trial with the Kansas City Monarchs." Some of the great players seasoned under Donaldson with All Nations included Newt Allen, Chet Brewer, and future Hall of Fame inductees Cristóbal Torriente and Andy Cooper. With a rediscovered strength in his rested left arm, Donaldson re-established himself as the premiere barnstorming pitcher by pacing the All Nations club with wins in 24 of 26 games. Crowds flocked to ball fields all across the Midwest, the sites of his greatest earlier triumphs and the places where entire communities knew of him. At the age of 32, Donaldson was called upon not only to bring in barnstorming receipts to help sup-

port the Monarchs' franchise, but also to serve as the headliner, the ace, the mentor, the coach, and the developer of the Monarchs future stars. Donaldson performed in all these roles with the same skill and grace that he had exhibited since he left Glasgow.

For the next two decades, behind the walls of racism and segregation, Donaldson continued to pitch for several professional and semi-professional teams. Wherever he pitched, most fans of all races appreciated not only his pitching prowess but the quality of his character. Donaldson's reputation commanded such respect that he was offered larger sums of money to pitch out-

side the organized "Negro Leagues" for semi-professional clubs throughout the Midwest, especially in Minnesota. In addition to making more money, pitching outside the organized Negro League provided Donaldson the considerable benefit of far less travel.

Trailblazer

After a lifetime of experiencing and watching racial prejudice and segregation, Donaldson lived to see the day when Jackie Robinson integrated baseball in April 1947. Like many African-American players who toiled in the relative obscurity of the playing fields outside the all-white world of Major League Baseball, Donaldson's exploits and achievements were lost and forgotten by most fans who grew more accustomed to seeing African Americans playing major

league ball.

After his playing career ended, Donaldson broke a color barrier himself in 1949 by becoming the first African-American scout in the American League, when the Chicago White Sox put him on their payroll. Once major league owners acknowledged the vast talent pool that existed within the African American community, Donaldson was seen as a natural bridge. Donaldson established his own territory on the campuses of black colleges, most notably Grambling College, looking for the next African American phenom to send to the major leagues. On several occasions Donaldson went to the Deep South, plucked an emerging black talent, and sent him to the Midwest to play for the minor league teams associated with the White Sox. Be-

cause Donaldson frequently knew the minor league managers personally from his time barnstorming, the players he signed knew that they would be treated well. On one such trip to the Deep South, Donaldson observed the talents of a young Willie Mays and recommended that the White Sox sign him to a contract. Unfortunately — for Chicago fans — his superiors passed up this golden opportunity.

In 1970, Donaldson passed away in Chicago at the age of 78. The man who earned his reputation as one of the best left-handed pitchers of any color through exploits reported across the United States, who pitched in ball- parks from Florida to California and from New York to Texas, was buried in an unmarked grave

in one of the few cemeteries in the Chicago area that allowed African Americans to be interred. Only in 2004, when his life and career was more fully understood, did people who were determined to preserve the memory of those individuals who contributed to black baseball raise a proper headstone upon his gravesite.

How do we measure John Wesley Donaldson? We cannot use the shorthand designation of "Hall of Famer," as Donaldson — despite his reputation and accomplishments — was not included among the 17 enshrinees inducted in 2006's special election. Examining the statistical record, from surviving newspaper accounts we see a dominating pitcher with more than 300 wins and more than 4,800 strikeouts. Research continues to add information providing statistical evidence

to build our appreciation of Donaldson's life. Statistics can never serve as the true yardstick of a man.

If the statistical record is insufficient, perhaps we can look to Donaldson's reputation among his peers. In 1952, the *Pittsburgh Courier* conducted its poll of former African American ballplayers and fans to determine the greatest African American players of all time. Both the former players and fans selected Donaldson as the first-team left-handed pitcher. Nevertheless, Donaldson remains the last of the five first-team pitchers from the *Courier* poll who is not currently enshrined in Cooperstown. (Only three of the 16 total first-team players have not been honored: Donaldson, Sam Bankhead, and Oliver Marcelle.)

The fact that Donaldson's accomplishments were achieved on the

barnstorming tour does not detract from his reputation. Virtually every baseball fan knows the legendary Satchel Paige and the tales of his barnstorming feats. Donaldson blazed the trail for Paige as he showcased his formidable talents in many of the same towns in which Paige would reprise Donaldson's performance as a headline-grabbing barnstorming hurler. The documented opinions of Hall of Famers Wilkinson, McGraw, Lloyd, and Cobb reveal the regard in which they held Donaldson. Still, even his reputation as a ballplayer fails to demonstrate the full measure of the man. Donaldson achieved greatness in the face of unfair barriers imposed by society. The debate that Donaldson's performances were only possible against competition that fell short of major league standards would never exist

but for the injustice of a system that established skin color as a prerequisite for access to the field. Even in the ballparks where Donaldson was allowed to play, prejudice and racial animus lay simmering beneath the surface.

"I am clean morally and physically," Donaldson once said. "I go to my church and contribute my share. I keep my body and mind clean. And yet when I go out there to play baseball it is not unusual to hear some fan cry out: 'Hit the dirty nigger.' That hurts. For I have no recourse. I am getting paid, I suppose, to take that. But why should fans become personal? If I act the part of a gentleman, am I not entitled to a little respect?"

Donaldson's character is revealed in his refusal to trade his heritage for professional glory. Rather than rejecti

ng his race, Donaldson embraced it, refusing to advance his career to the major league stage at the cost of turning his back on his family.

In a 1932 newspaper article, Donaldson proclaimed: “I am not ashamed of my color. There is no woman whom I love more than my mother, I am light enough so that baseball men told me before I became known that I could be passed off as a Cuban. One prominent baseball man in fact offered me a nice sum if I would go to Cuba, change my name and let him take me into this country as a Cuban. It would have meant renouncing my family. One of the agreements was that I was never again to visit my mother or to have anything to do with colored people, I refused.”

Instead, Donaldson continued to pitch on the barnstorming circuit, a living embodiment of the words of Quincy Gilmore, who wrote in *The Kansas City Call* that "no other enterprise has done more towards bringing the races to a better relationship with each other than baseball." For decades, John Wesley Donaldson demonstrated to everyone who watched him not only his skill with a baseball but his character as a man, regardless of race. One diamond at a time.

Peter W. Gorton has been working to uncover the legacy of John Donaldson for more than eight years.

For more information on the life and career of John Wesley Donaldson visit johndonaldson.bravehost.com

Donaldson in his Lismore, Minnesota, uniform circa 1925. ◇*RUTH & MATT BALTES COLLECTION*

Traveling man

◇ Born February 20, 1891, in Glasgow, Missouri. Died April 14, 1970, in Chicago.

◇ Threw 30 consecutive no-hit innings in May of 1915.

◇ Between 1911 and 1913, newspaper reports show an astonishing pitching record of 121 wins and eight losses.

◇ In a career that spanned from 1908 to 1939, played for at least 25 different teams, including barnstorming teams like the Tennessee Rats; semi-pro squads like Bertha, Minnesota; and the Negro Leagues' Kansas City Monarchs.

◇ Documented statistics from surviving newspaper accounts show a verifiable record of 315 wins and 112 losses, with a total of 4,800 strikeouts. Researchers have uncovered more that 200 games in which Donaldson struck out more than ten batters. His remarkable lifetime winning percentage of .750 places him among baseball's elite.

◇ Researchers continue to work to uncover "lost" pitching appearances from old box scores in local newspapers from across the nation.

◇ Struck out 30 in an 18-inning game (which his team lost, 1-0), and also pitched a perfect game.

◇ In 1949, the Chicago White Sox hired Donaldson as the first African American scout in the American League. After retirement, also worked for a department store and a bakery in Chicago.

Document compiled from the files of The Donaldson Network