



# The Donaldson Network

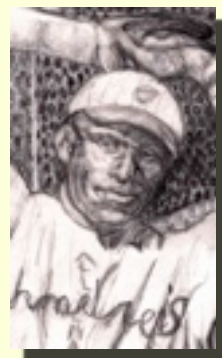
Always Looking!

Hello from the Donaldson Network! This newsletter is meant to bring you up to speed on some of the developments surrounding the rediscovery of the lost baseball career of John Wesley Donaldson. Thanks to all who have contributed since our last newsletter and to those who continue to scour the countryside seeking the Donaldson trail. We continue to discover lost information, innovate how baseball research is being done and set the record straight about the most prolific black pitcher in history!

This issue has dozens of highlights. The new developments of the Donaldson Network over the past several months include new information on Goro Mikami, Cyber space updates, T-shirts, Speeches, Articles, Testimonials, Hall of Famers humbled, Money Men and even Heavyweight Champs! But overall this edition has a central theme... Photographs! So sit-back and peruse the subsequent pages and don't forget to let us know what you think. Your voices are always heard on the internet at [johndonaldson.bravehost.com](http://johndonaldson.bravehost.com), or via [email](#).

## Graphic Novel in Production!

[McFarland Publishing](#) has started the process for a graphic novel about John Donaldson! The release date for the book is currently "To Be Determined." The exciting news that the life of John Donaldson will be chronicled in the pages of an entire book is outstanding and welcome news. We seek to tell the story as many times as possible. More details will be released soon!



## Mikami Photos

The Donaldson Network has gone International. This submission from [Kaz](#) comes from Japan. The player pictured is Goro Mikami who played for the World's All Nations team in 1914. Mikami is known as the first professional Japanese player in baseball history. The All Nations broke many barriers that at the time were considered impossible. Owner Wilkinson once said "They all get along fine - same as if they were all the same race."



Mikami passport photo

Hibbing.						
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
C. Booth, lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Geisselman, rf	4	0	0	1	0	0
Brookins, 2b	4	0	1	2	1	0
D. Booth, cf	3	0	1	0	0	0
Williams, 1b	4	0	0	10	0	1
Carroll, c	3	0	1	6	2	1
Whaling, 2b	3	0	0	2	7	2
Tedisco, p	3	0	0	0	2	2
Nord, ss	3	0	0	0	2	3
Totals	31	0	3	27	14	8
All Nations.						
Menden, ss	4	2	0	1	3	0
Jackson, cf	5	0	1	2	0	0
Donaldson, p	5	0	0	0	2	0
Blattner, 2b	4	1	2	0	2	0
Dunbar, lf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Brindley, 1b	3	0	0	6	0	0
Makami, rf	3	1	2	1	0	0
Schaumburg, c	3	0	0	17	0	1
Seymour, 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	32	4	5	27	6	2

Goro Mikami 2-2  
John Donaldson 17 K's

Box Score from Hibbing, MN 1914

Below Mikami with the 1914 Knox University Team  
(Mikami seated in front row second from left)





# Network Research Updates:

## DONNA KELROY

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of Donna Kelroy, one of the first members of the Donaldson Network. Donna was the daughter of Oscar "Red" Westergren who played with John Donaldson in Bertha, Minnesota in 1924. Red and John became lifelong friends and Donna always had a John Donaldson story to tell. Donna provided the framework of the way the Donaldson Network would be formed. Her encouraging and positive nature was inspirational, and we hope to continue her good work into the future. Make a point each day to encourage someone to use the gifts they have been given to make a difference. Thank you Donna --you will be missed.

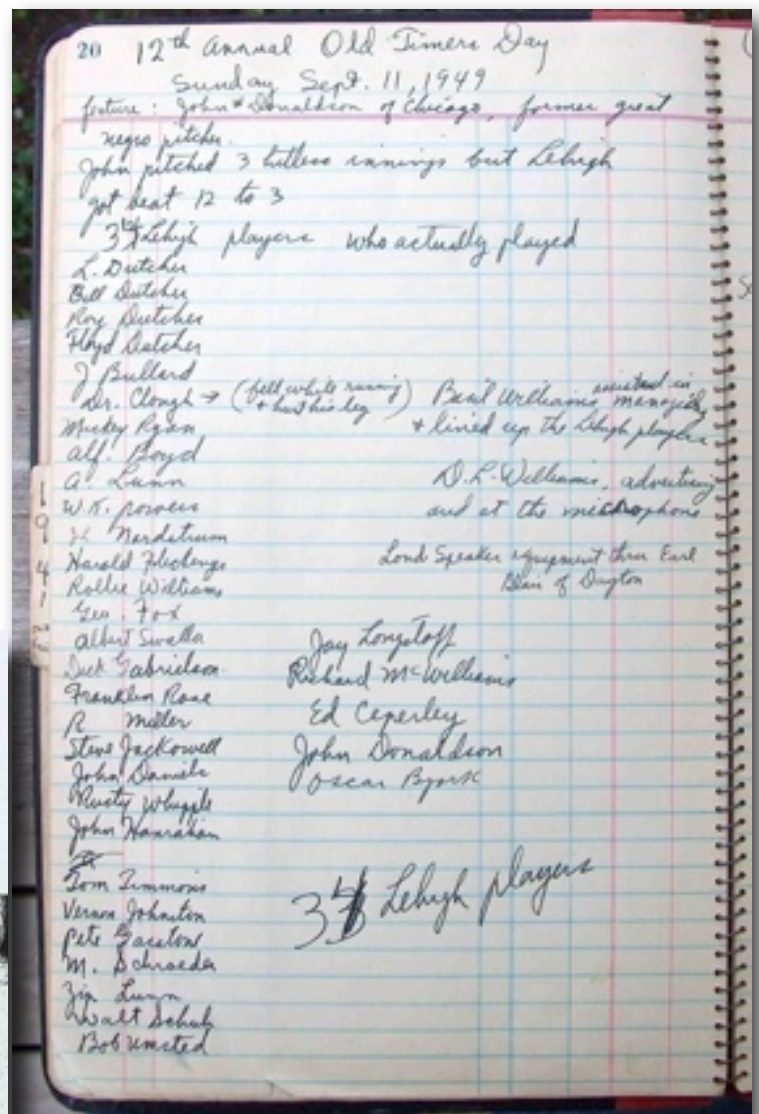


## LEHIGH IOWA 1949 -

In September of 1949 John Donaldson returned to Lehigh, Iowa for the annual "Old-Timers Day" game. This submission came in from [Al](#) who discovered it. This photo is of the actual register of players for the game. Also, below are a couple of photos of John Donaldson from that day.



Incidentally... Donaldson the "former great negro pitcher," threw three scoreless innings at the age of 58!



## DONALDSON NIPS FUTURE HALL OF FAMER

Many thanks to [Bill](#) who uncovered this gem using an online newspaper collection. This is a box score from Winona, Minnesota. In 1934 John Donaldson was picked up from his Chicago home by the Kansas City Monarchs who were playing games on one of their many tours. The Monarchs opponent was the House of David with former major-league titan Grover



Hall of Fame Pitcher  
Grover Cleveland Alexander

KANSAS CITY MONARCHS (4).							
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	
Allen, ss	5	0	1	3	2	0	
Taylor, cf	5	0	1	3	0	0	
Dwight, lf	5	1	1	0	0	0	
Young, c	5	1	1	4	1	0	
Rogan, 1b, 3b	5	0	2	5	2	1	
Mothell, 2b	5	1	1	3	1	0	
Joseph, 3b, 1b	4	0	1	7	1	0	
Brewer, rf	3	0	0	6	0	0	
Donaldson, p	4	1	3	0	1	1	
	41	4	11	20	8	2	
HOUSE OF DAVIDS (1).							
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E	
Williams, 2b	5	0	1	0	5	1	
Moulder, ss	5	0	1	0	1	0	
Bosse, 1b	4	1	1	13	3	0	
Traynor, 3b	3	0	1	1	3	1	
Smith, c	3	0	0	3	0	0	
Laufer, rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Jacobs, cf	4	0	1	6	0	0	
Lucas, lf	4	0	0	1	0	0	
McDougal, rf	4	0	1	5	1	0	
Stokes, p	3	0	0	1	4	1	
Alexander, p	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	37	1	6	30	16	3	
House of David	100	000	000	0	1		
Monarchs	000	610	000	3	4		

Cleveland Alexander. Alexander was inducted into Hall of Fame in 1938; he had taken over as the player/manager of the club and would only pitch three innings of the contest whereas John Donaldson went the entire 10 innings for the victory allowing a measly six hits!

A word about online newspaper databases. The Donaldson Network subscribes to several sites offering historic newspapers. We have done many searches for all types of information about John Donaldson. Online services continually update their content causing our records to be "out of date" almost immediately. Together we need to continually recheck digitized newspapers. Prior to any online searches please check in with us [HERE](#). To see a list of game references The Donaldson Network is currently "Always Looking" to find, see our [Missing Games](#) page. John Donaldson's paper trail is vast, and we need to work together to optimize our searching efforts.





Recently a surge of interest in John Donaldson and The Donaldson Network was brought about by an article published on Yahoo.com. Millions of people worldwide use Yahoo as their online news source. The article titled "[\*The Greatest Pitcher You've Never Heard Of\*](#)," was written by John Klima. A few numbers that show the magnitude of the Yahoo platform: Our website experienced more than 2,000 new viewers over three days, a massive surge! Hundreds of thousands, new to the Donaldson story, read an excellent account of the influence of John Donaldson. Special thanks to John!

### The Greatest Pitcher You've Never Heard Of

Sunday, March 27, 2011 7:47 am | Written by John Klima

Print

The greatest pitcher nobody has ever heard of is buried in section 7, lot 1, row 17, grave 97 of Elm Oak Cemetery, where for more than 30 years, barely a soul knew about the man resting in an unmarked corner grave, his story buried alongside Chicago trumpeters and outfielders.

Then he had a visitor:

The first time Peter Gorton walked onto the cemetery grass, he couldn't escape forgotten feelings of indignity. He was drawn to this quiet parcel of land and the history beneath his feet, and for years, unearthing this man's memory has motivated him. They have little in common, but when the white 41-year old workaday dad and weekend ballplayer discovered the black left-hander who pitched his way into folklore a century ago, he found his baseball calling. Here rests John Donaldson, and nobody remembered his name.



#### "THE GREATEST COLORED PITCHER IN THE WORLD"

There was a time when John Donaldson was as famous as Satchel Paige. He was heralded as the "famous colored twirler," whose only crime was playing his best years before 1900, when the Negro Leagues were officially created. Not only did Donaldson miss his chance to pitch in front of large crowds, he missed the chance to cement himself into contemporary baseball history. The pitcher who won more than 350 games and had 4,500 strikeouts has largely been lost to time.



### PHIL DEWEY DEPICTS JOHN DONALDSON

We were reminded of artist Phillip Dewey ([phildewey.com](http://phildewey.com)) and his work surrounding the Negro Leagues, and most importantly his piece called "John Donaldson." It is a beautiful mixed-media piece depicting the great lefty!



## MELROSE ARTICLE

We were asked to provide some photos for an article that appeared in The Senior Perspective newspaper on John Donaldson and his time in Melrose, Minnesota. You can view the article: [If you build it, they will come...for a while](#). It was written by [Jean](#) part of the extended Donaldson Network team.

If anyone is interested in writing stories that feature John Donaldson please let us know and we will do what we can to help.

## TODD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPEECH

John Donaldson's career, with a focus on his playing time in central Minnesota, was the order of the day when Pete Gorton delivered an enthusiastic speech in Long Prairie, Minnesota. A few dozen spectators attended the event including a couple of relatives of former Donaldson teammates. Spreading the word about the influence of John Donaldson to as many listeners as possible is a primary goal of The Donaldson Network.



## DONALDSON NETWORK T-SHIRT

The Donaldson Network clothing line is officially here! We've designed the "Always Looking," T-shirt. At Zazzle.com you can order this design on dozens of different types of clothing. Be the envy of your fellow researchers and show your support for the cause by outfitting all your friends. [Click here for more information.](#)

Proceeds support further research by offsetting Inter-Library Loan fees

**WARNING:** Wearing this shirt will cause complete strangers to ask "What's the Donaldson Network?"

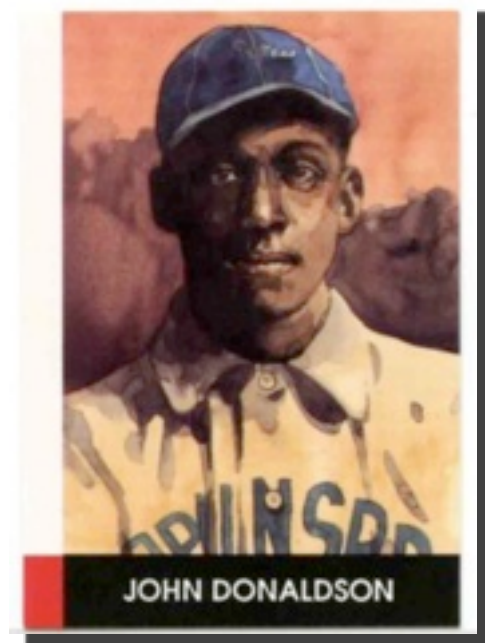


## JOHN DONALDSON BASEBALL CARDS

We have been asked several times "Does Donaldson have any baseball cards?" The answer is Yes! Here are two cards that show John Donaldson.



1994 Ted Williams Negro Leagues  
#104 John Donaldson



1990 Eclipse Negro League #8  
John Donaldson



# As The World Rolls On

24th and Vine St. 24th and Vine St.

## LOVE'S THEATRE

7 days 7 days  
Premier Showing In The United States  
COMMENCING  
Sunday, Sept. 18th  
Andlauer Production, Presents  
**JACK JOHNSON**  
IN  
**"AS THE WORLD ROLLS ON"**  
(NOT A FIGHT PICTURE)  
Supported by Kansas City's famous Negro Movie Players—Blanche Thompson, Reed Thomas, Walter Simpson, Sam Crawford, A. G. Rogers, Howard and Oscar Barker.

A seven reel triumph photo dramatic achievement.  
A story of brave hearts and kind deeds.  
That means human interest.

Plenty of Action, Worlds of Pop. See Tarrinton the  
World's Greatest Negro Base Ball Player Kamik's  
Home Run.

**Scenes**  
RUBEN FOSTER'S AMERICAN GIANTS  
IN ACTION.  
THE MONARCHS, ELKS PRESENTATION,  
ODD FELLOWS PARADE,  
K. P. ENCAMPMENT.

**A Revelation in  
RACE Photo Play**  
ALL NEGRO CAST  
See Jack Johnson in Action  
See Reed Thomas Risk His Life on  
the 25th Street Viaduct.

ALL SCENES TAKEN IN  
AND AROUND KANSAS  
CITY, SHOWING MANY  
BEAUTIFUL HOMES  
AND LOCALITIES.

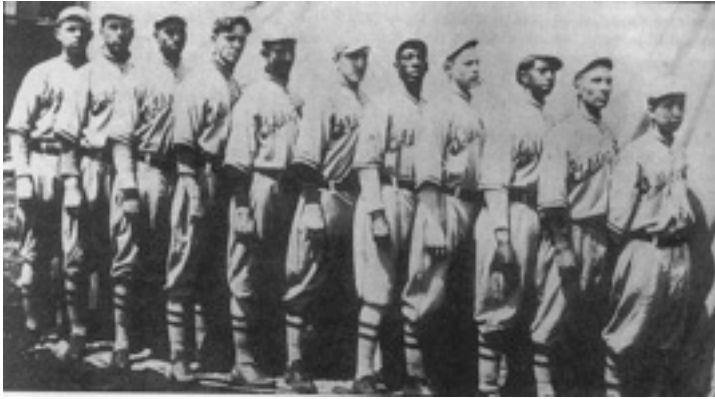
**COMEDY**  
Continuous from 2:30 p. m. Sunday—Admission Adults 25c,  
Children 11c. Week Day Schedule 7, to 11:30 p. m. Come Early.

THIS PICTURE WILL NOT BE SHOWN IN ANY OTHER NEGRO THEATRE IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

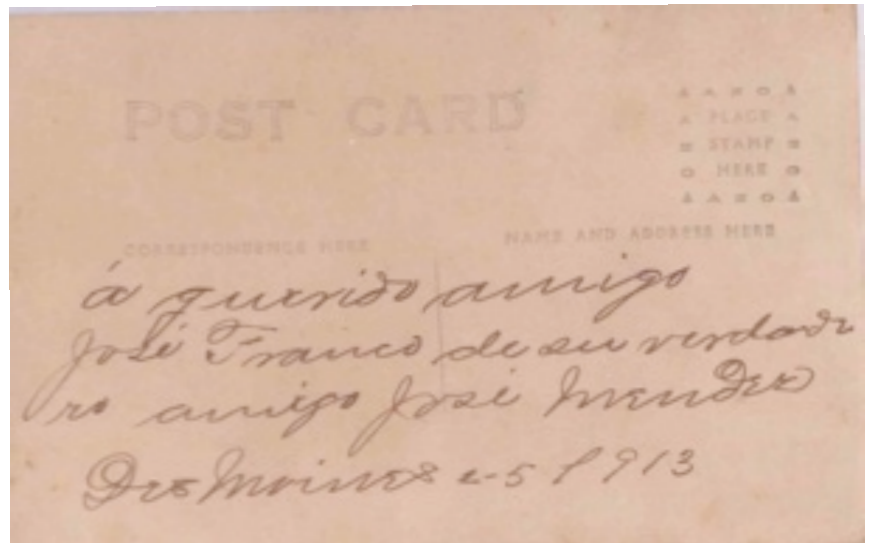
Announcing a Donaldson Network assignment! Recently we uncovered an ad for the Motion Picture titled "As The World Rolls On," The silent film made its theatrical debut in September of 1921 and starred former heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson. The film was shot entirely in and around Kansas City, Missouri. Johnson had just completed his sentence in nearby Leavenworth prison for violation of the Mann Act. It is unknown if a copy of the film exists and an exhaustive search needs to be conducted. Negro National League founding franchises the Kansas City Monarchs and Chicago American Giants star in the film. There is a distinct possibility that John Donaldson appears in this film too, as he played with the KC club for the entire 1921 season. The small photo on the lower-left shows two players. On the left is clearly a Monarch...could this be John Donaldson? Have we arrived too late to save this film? All answers we have yet to discover! Let's turn up the heat on this search. Hopefully...together, the Donaldson Network can again uncover another piece of Donaldson film footage. Click [here](#) if you want to know how you can help.



# 1913 All Nations Photo



Following up on the last newsletter: we ran a photo analysis of an All Nations team photo. Soon after, we were contacted by [Matt](#) about the photo below of pitcher Jose Mendez. The series of photos appear to have the same background which led us to surmise they were taken on the same day. We examined the Donaldson Network files and found the team photo began to appear in newspa-



pers in July of 1913. Historians had concluded that the team shot was taken in 1914, which the Donaldson Network was able to pre-date by more than a year. We received this postcard which clearly states on the back (loosely translated) "To my dear friend Jose Francisco from your friend Jose Mendez Des Moines 2-5-1913." It appears that this photo was snapped earlier than the 1914 date originally calculated. Mendez, who was born and educated in Cuba, wrote the date according to Cuban custom: date-month-year, 2 May 1913. The May date is appropriate for a baseball-season picture. Together, The Donaldson Network is correcting the historical record! We are Always Looking!

# The Donaldson Network Speaks

Dozens of contributors to the Donaldson Network were recently asked what the John Donaldson story has meant to them personally. Over the next few newsletters we will print some of the wonderful responses:

My grandpa Harry used to tell stories of the legendary John Donaldson. Long before T.V. and in the days of black and white photographs, like many he marveled at the greatest pitcher he ever saw... John Donaldson. Grandpa umped and played in those games. I was glued to those stories of how John pitched so great and struck out so many.

All that remains are those stories. I find it ironic that, being a man of color, John Donaldson was separated from the greatest game by his color in an era when black & white was all that was captured on photographs and there was no color in film footage.

LONG LIVE JOHN DONALDSON.

Dean - Sleepy Eye, MN

I am a high school history teacher who also loves baseball history. I teach a week long unit on the Negro Leagues & Jackie Robinson and compare that to White baseball at the time. To think one of the greatest players in NLB I have never heard about and that he pitched in the Midwest is unbelievable. It also is a good lesson on historical research and methods used to find information that has been lost but now found. I hope John Donaldson makes the HOF!

Dave - Normal, IL

John W. Donaldson was a very interesting man to me. His perspective on life, at his time, is quite remarkable. Even though he was a gifted athlete, he would not deny his true self - even for the love (or riches) of the game. That is rare.

Meshonda - Dallas, TX

# Doc Miller on Donaldson

The people who knew John Donaldson the best were the people who hired him. J.C. "Doc" Miller was in charge of the Bertha bank and ran the finances for the Bertha Fishermen during the time John Donaldson pitched in central Minnesota from 1924-1927.

The following is an excerpt from the Fargo (ND) Forum 1927:

"Doc Miller, Bertha banker and financial guardian of the team is the author of a statement that Donaldson is one of the easiest athletes to handle in independent baseball.

"John is a natural worker. He never complains when asked to pitch out of turn and he's in there hustling, for every game." Miller said.

"Take care of himself?" Miller repeated. "Say, you saw him run in from the outfield Sunday and pitch four balls to retire the side in a tight place after pitching only five warm-up balls.

He's always in condition because he takes care of himself.

And when his baseball days are over he'll have plenty of money so he'll have nothing to worry about. He takes care of his money," Miller declared.

And Miller should know as he runs the team and the bank.





# Web Site Update

Our website continues to evolve. A current project of note takes aim at establishing the [John Donaldson Calendar](#). Shown here is a template that documents the day by day account of the 1923 Kansas City Monarchs. This example shows the typical single month view of a barnstorming teams movements. The calendars will include any reports, game accounts or references for any of Donaldson's teams. These documents will be expandable and correctable as information continues to be re discovered. Another way to show progress in finding and documenting "All Things John Donaldson."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June, 1923 Kansas City Monarchs</b>					1 Indian- apolis ABCs 7-8 L	2 Indian- apolis ABCs 3-1 W
3 Milwau- kee, WI Bears 5-6 L 10-4 W	4 Milwau- kee, WI Bears 15-7 W	5 Milwau- kee, WI Bears 16-1 W	6 Milwau- kee, WI Bears 10-7 W	7	8	9 Cincin- nati Cu- ban Stars game rained out in K.C.
10 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 0-4 L 4-3 W (7 innings)	11	12 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 5-2 W	13 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 0-2 L	14 Monarchs @ Chanute, KS 10-3 W	15 Monarchs vs Iola, KS @ Humboldt, KS 5-0 W, 11-2 W (Iola field flooded)	16 Monarchs @ Eureka, KS or Tulsa (KC Sun shows a Win @ OK)
17 Monarchs @ Tulsa, OK Black Oilers 16-0 W 1-3 L	18 Monarchs @ Tulsa, OK Black Oilers W	19 Monarchs @ Tulsa, OK Black Oilers	20 Monarchs @ Okmulgee, OK	21 Monarchs @ Pittsburg, KS Travelers 2-0 W	22 Monarchs @ Fort Scott, KS 12-8 W	23 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 3-4 L
24 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 8-6 W	25 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 3-9 L	26 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 3-10 L	27 Cincin- nati Cuban Stars 6-3 W	28 Monarchs @ Wichita, KS	29 Monarchs @ Wichita, KS	30

Baseball is going to be a real shock later. Base was and will be the same today as it is today tomorrow and tomorrow will be the same as today.

The Kansas City Sun, Kansas City, Missouri  
Saturday, June 9, 1923, Page 5, Columns 1-3

**BASE BALL!**

ASSOCIATION PARK  
**K. C. Monarchs**  
vs.  
**Cuban Stars**

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday  
Wednesday, June 9, 10, 11, 12, 13  
TUESDAY LADDER DAY. Game Called at 3 o'clock

The Kansas City Sun, Kansas City, Missouri  
Saturday, June 9, 1923, Page 5, Columns 3-4

PAGE 1

**Monarchs Baseball News**

Three days that almost ending the first game played between the Monarchs and the Cuban Stars from Cuba, ended a level. The Cubans are about the best team that has played here this season. They look very well with the team here in a well played game series. They accomplished a feat that happens very seldom, in winning the Monarchs out in the last game played on Wednesday by the score of 3 to 5. The Cubans have good pitching, good catching, a real infield, a good outfield, O. W. Hall, a real baseball team. They are about as far out stronger than they were last year.

The Cubans will return here again one week from next Saturday. Owner "William" through permission from President Foster, has been able to postpone the schedule so as to bring the Cubans right back to Kansas City for the benefit of the local fans. That weather kept the teams from playing weather here the crowd down Sunday, when on Monday the game was postponed on account of rain. It was quite good weather on our return the night that was going to see some real baseball.

is playing ball.

It is reported that Duke Foster will be here to help the Monarchs open the next week. Some game and some profit, and some fun.

Quiet tonight. Duke Foster and Frank Foster are delivering a good brand of ball.

More to look into the game after a few days on the Island lot.

**GIANTS WON FROM ST. LOUIS STARS.**

Chicago, Sunday—The American League made it one straight from the St. Louis Stars when "Whiff" scored from Knickerbocker held the victory in three hits, two of which came in the sixth, breaking victory by hit and further defeat. Thrust coming by the winner, Knickerbocker for the visiting pitcher who scored series of the most before Saturday's game went to the Cubs in the night after (in home had made) and was not making. Tomorrow, Foster and Knickerbocker's game and you may want some enough to win 5 to 4. Foster's game was a loss to Knickerbocker.

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The score by innings:

Monarchs	000 450 210—13 16 4	H. H. F.
Fort Scott	000 000 134—8 27 4	

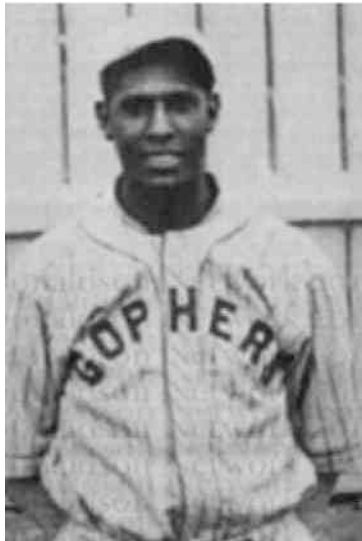
Two bays hit, O. Johnson, Coates McQuilly, Robinson, Moore, Moore, stolen base, O. Johnson, F. McNear, Duncan, home run, McQuilly, double play, Lashburne, unassisted, Lashburne to Moore, Sweatt to Moore, O. Johnson, hit by pitched ball, O. Johnson, base on balls, off Tyree, J. off Hickey, J. struck out by Tyree, S. by Hickey, J. by Holding, J. Time of game 1:45. umpire, Cox. Score, Wheaton.

**NOTES OF THE GAME.**

Shortstop Harvey was injured in the eighth inning when he collided with W. Johnson at first base. He was forced to leave the game, but recovered from the blow a few minutes later. Sklaney, Moore turned his ankle when he slid into second.

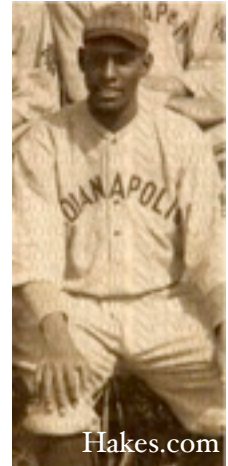
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# Web Site Update



Our web site [johndonaldson.bravehost.com](http://johndonaldson.bravehost.com) continues to redefine how a research effort is conducted. A call went out to the Society of Baseball Researchers (SABR) seeking any known photos of John Donaldson. After hearing almost no response from their membership we decided that we would show the photos we have of John Donaldson in hopes that others would surface. We consolidated all of the Donaldson Network's images into the [Donaldson Photo Album](#) (Click link to view) We want to show the world his likeness and further expand the search for lost images of the "Greatest Colored Pitcher in the World." We also want [johndonaldson.bravehost.com](http://johndonaldson.bravehost.com)

to be THE home for all things related to John Donaldson. Together the Donaldson Network is Always Looking for techniques to improve our research effort!



Hakes.com

Don't Forget!.. Past Issues of  
The Donaldson Network Newsletter  
are available at

[johndonaldson.bravehost.com](http://johndonaldson.bravehost.com)

Click [HERE](#) to see them!





# Carrol "Dink" Mothell



John Donaldson

In late April of 1980 Carrol "Dink" Mothell was buried in Topeka, Kansas. The former Negro Leaguer was known for his versatility on the baseball diamond. We know him as one of John Donaldson's former catchers. Both Donaldson and Mothell shared one other historical footnote: both were buried in unmarked graves. The Donaldson Network was formed in response to Donaldson's gravesite ceremony in 2004 and the effort to discover and provide proper markers has blossomed ever since. [The Negro Leagues Grave Marker Project](#) discovered Mothell's grave and commissioned a proper marker celebrating his life and baseball career. Both Mothell and Donaldson shared in the brotherhood of black baseball during the segregated era. Now this famous battery can be remembered for their tremendous careers, not the absence of proper burial markers.



Dink Mothell

