

# MAJOR LEAGUE SCOUTS TO WATCH EAST-WEST GAME

**CHICAGO — (ANP) —** Major league scouts will eye the 19th annual East-West game at Comiskey Park, Sunday afternoon, Aug. 12, with greater interest than ever. The East-West classic has been a proving ground for Negro league players who have advanced into organized baseball.

Bill Veeck, who as owner of the Cleveland Indians signed Larry Doby, Leroy Satchel Paige, Arestes Minozo, Lucius Easter, Harry Simpson, Nat Clifton and others, will be back, this time as owner of the St. Louis Browns.

Others expected included John Donaldson and a couple of Chicago American League scouts, two from the Chicago Cubs, Hank Greenberg, president of the Cleveland Indians; Ray Blade, Brooklyn Dodgers and Tom Greenwade of the New York Yankees.

A number of performers in this year's classic will follow in the wake of Jackie Robinson, the Kansas City Monarchs shortstop, who was signed by Branch Rickey Sr., then president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, at the close of the 1945 Negro American League season and after his first and only East-West game.

Robinson became the first Negro in 50 years to play in organized baseball. He served one year with the Montreal Royals where he became a batting and

base stealing as well as a fielding sensation in 1946, and moved up to the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 where he remained.

If Robinson had been the lone Negro entry in big time baseball it would be well to say that he was an exceptional player who comes along "once in a life time." Larry Doby, outfielder with the Cleveland Indians, jumped right from Mrs. Effa Manley's Newark Eagles ball club into the Indians uniform and into the American League to become the first Negro to play in that circuit.

Dan Bankhead moved from the Memphis Red Sox after his second straight victory in the East-West classic to the Brooklyn Dodgers. He ended the season as Robinson's teammate, was shifted to

Montreal the following spring, thence to St. Paul of the American Association before he was recalled by the Dodgers.

Satchel Paige, who has pitched in six East-West games, went from the Kansas City Monarchs to the Cleveland Indians. He was out of big time baseball 2 years, and is now with the St. Louis Browns.

The Browns had tried out Willard Brown and Hank Thompson of the Monarchs. Their stay in major league baseball was short, presumably because the Browns failed to "pack them in" as they expected upon signing the two Ne-

groes. Brown is playing in South America. Thompson has recently been optioned to the Ottawa club

after playing a couple of seasons at third base for the New York Giants.

Remaining with the Giants are Willie Mays, former outfielder with the Birmingham Black Barons, and Monte Irvin, formerly with the Newark Eagles of the now disbanded Negro National League. Incidentally, Irvin, Doby and big Don Newcombe of the Dodgers were teammates with the Eagles.

But there are others. There is Roy Campanella of the Dodgers who was once a member of the Baltimore Elite Giants during the days of the late Tom Wilson, owner of the club. Roy was voted the most valuable player in the 1945 East-West classic.

Minoso played in the 1947 and 1948 games. He was a member of



the New York Cuban Stars. Minoso is "cleaning up" as a member of the Chicago White Sox. Recently joining the White Sox, Sam Hairston, former catcher and infielder for the Indianapolis Clowns, is expected to bolster a weak spot in the Chicago organization.

Others who have graduated from the classic to big time and the years they played in the classic are:

Piper Davis (1946) now with Ottawa; Sammy Jethroe (1946) and Luis Marquez (1947) now with Boston Braves; Art Wilson (1947) Oakland Oaks; James "Junior" Gilliam (1948), Montreal; Bob Boyd (1949), Sacramento and on 24-hour option by the Chicago White Sox; Art Pen-

nington (1950);

Jesse Douglas (1950), Colorado Springs; Leon Day (1935, believe it or not), and Charley White (1950) Toronto; Jim Pendleton (1950) St. Paul; Bonnie Serrell (1949), San Francisco.

Whether or not one is a Negro American League fan, he must realize that Negro club owners have been responsible for the training of these dark skinned players who are now wearing the uniforms of major league clubs or their farm affiliations.

The percentage of players who were once the stars in East-West classics is such that the game warrants the patronage of the public. This year will produce some who will move to greater heights.

There is one thing that must

not be forgotten. Major leaguers buy contracts of players from clubs in the NAL. Recently the St. Louis Browns signed a Detroit Negro high school star pitcher. They paid him no bonus because the youth was too anxious to sign and he didn't have good counsel.



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