

T H E D O N A L D S O N
N E T W O R K

johnaldson.bravehost.com



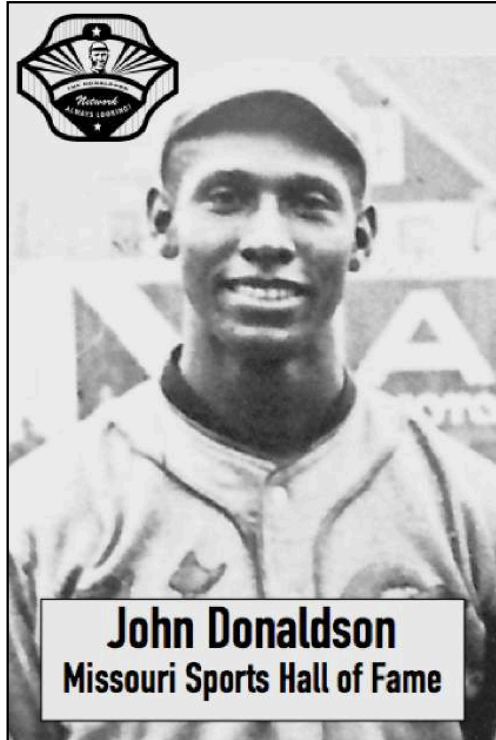
Document compiled
from the files of
The Donaldson Network
John Donaldson
Career Highlights
Missouri Sports
Hall of Fame

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johnaldson.bravehost.com*

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com

2017
Missouri Sports Hall of Fame
Nomination
John Wesley Donaldson



“One player always stands out in our memory
– that of graceful, polished and classy John
Donaldson.

He was the poetry and rhythm of baseball.”

-Lake Wilson (MN) Pilot

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •

telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johndonaldson.bravehost.com*

“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 [\$10,000 in 1917] 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, I am clean morally and physically. 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?” - John Donaldson



THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



John Donaldson's career spanned from 1908 to 1941 (33-years) he played for at least 25 different teams, including influential barn-storming clubs like the All Nations multi-racial team operated by Hall of Fame owner J.L. Wilkinson. The All Nations consisted of, "Chinese, Japanese, Cubans, Indians, Hawaiians ...and the Great John Donaldson the best colored pitcher in the United States." Attitudes on race at the time believed a team with multiple ethnicities could not coexist much less excel at the national game. The All Nations did both.

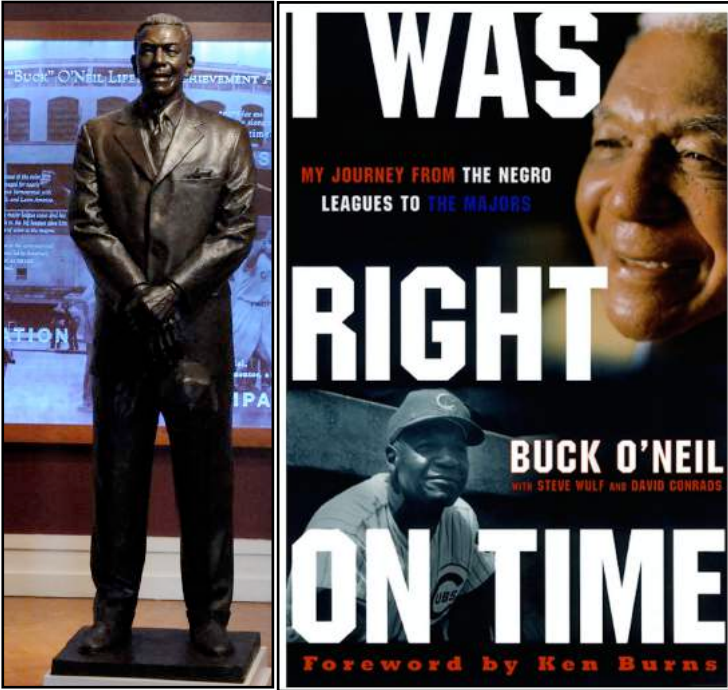
[Click here to read "One Diamond at A Time."](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •

telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johndonaldson.bravehost.com*

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



Legendary baseball ambassador Buck O'Neil said in his autobiography—
“John Donaldson... showed Satchel [Paige] the way, and the fact is, there are many people who saw them both who say John Donaldson was just as good as Satchel.”

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johndonaldson.bravehost.com*

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johnaldson.bravehost.com



John Donaldson was a founding member the Negro Leagues' Kansas City Monarchs in 1920 where he pitched, played center field and batted cleanup.

(John Donaldson standing first on left)

[Click here to see the
1920 Kansas City Monarchs Season](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •

telephone: 612-325-7815 • johnaldson.bravehost.com

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



**George R. Smith College Baseball Team
Sedalia, MO. circa 1910**

Donaldson attended George R. Smith College in Sedalia, Missouri the alma mater of American composer Scott Joplin.

**Special
Return
Engagement**
Of The
**Famous All Nation
Base Ball Club**
The Club of Men of All Nations
Including Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiians, Portuguese, Brazilians, Cubans, Canella Indians and the great Jon Donaldson, the best colored pitcher in the world today, also featuring the Great Mendez, the mighty Cuban who trimmed the Philadelphia Athletics at Habana de Cuba, the score being 1 to 0.
Owing to the fact that this club and the Leeds club played such a good game here last season, the Leeds management has been anxious to secure this attraction and give the fans of Leeds a treat.
Mendez and Donaldson will both be in the game.
Remember the Day
SUNDAY, JUNE 29
Admission, 35 cents; Grand Stand, 15c; Children, 15 cents

1913 All Nations
Advertisement

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •

telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johndonaldson.bravehost.com*

P A G E 7

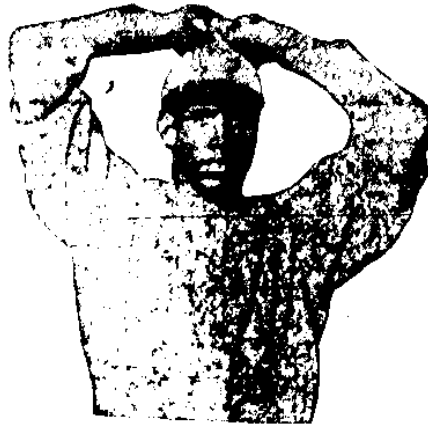
T H E D O N A L D S O N
N E T W O R K

johnaldson.bravehost.com

The New York Age

Donaldson is the highest salaried colored baseball player who ever wore a uniform and the Royal Giant management has been dickering for several weeks with this star player

John Donaldson was known as the “highest salaried colored pitcher in baseball.” Earning at least \$450 per month at his peak. Donaldson’s income and reputation allowed him to control where he played.

	<h2>Colored Star Here</h2> <p>John Donaldson, colored south-paw with the All-Nations, the team which meets the A. B. Cs in a double-header at Federal Park this afternoon, is regarded the best negro pitcher in the game. He will oppose Dicta Johnson in all probability today and an interesting mound duel is promised.</p>
--	---

1916 All Nations Advertisement

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •

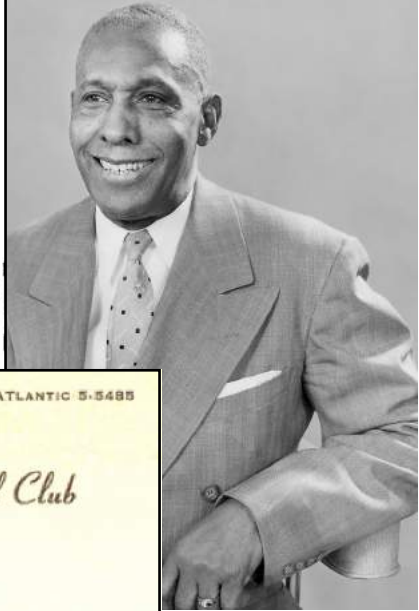
telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johnaldson.bravehost.com*

P A G E 8

Chi Sox Sign Donaldson As Talent Scout

By RUSS J. COWANS

John Donaldson, rated one of the greatest southpaws ever to step on the mound,



PHONE ATLANTIC 5-5485

*American League Baseball Club
of Chicago*

JOHN DONALDSON
SCOUT

416 EAST 46TH PLACE
CHICAGO 15, ILLINOIS

In 1949, the Chicago White Sox hired John Donaldson as the first full-time African-American scout in Major League Baseball history. He scouted the all-time greats including Willie Mays, Ernie Banks and Hank Aaron. In many ways John Donaldson broke the color barrier pursuing talent off the field.

[News Clip: How the 1952 Brainerd Braves landed 3 black players](#)

T H E D O N A L D S O N
N E T W O R K

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



Examination of discovered film footage suggests John Donaldson had a unique power pitching delivery that was decades ahead of his peers. Donaldson’s physical ability was without question coveted by the major leagues. Magnates like John McGraw, Charles Comiskey and Frank Chance were said to have endorsed him. Hall of Fame entrepreneur J.L. Wilkinson called Donaldson, “The greatest pitcher that ever threw a baseball.”

[Click here to see film footage of John Donaldson](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • johndonaldson.bravehost.com

P A G E 10

THE DONALDSON NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



John Donaldson is one of two remaining members of 13 black “All-Time Greats” documented in the 1952 Pittsburgh Courier Poll not currently enshrined in The National Baseball Hall of Fame. Fellow pitchers on the list are Satchel Paige, Joe Williams, Bullet Rogan and William Foster all have plaques in Cooperstown and all played side-by-side with John Donaldson.

[Click here to read “An Analysis of the 1952 Pittsburgh Courier Negro League Baseball Poll,” by J. Fredrico Brillhart](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • johndonaldson.bravehost.com

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



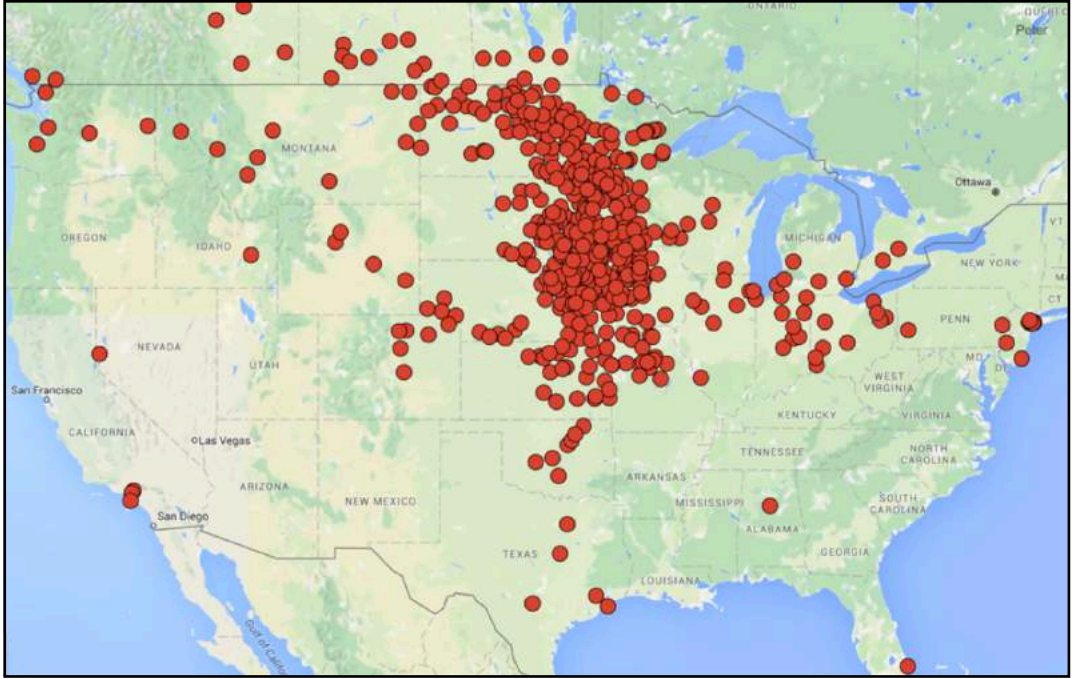
In 1911, John Donaldson was a star pitcher for Brown's Tennessee Rats based in Holden, Missouri. The Rats played baseball in the afternoon and put on a minstrel show during the evening. Donaldson recorded 31 strikeouts in a single game won by the Rats after eighteen innings.

[See the 1911 articles for Brown's Tennessee Rats](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • johndonaldson.bravehost.com

THE DONALDSON NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



John Donaldson is known to have played baseball
in 550 cities in 25 U.S. states and Canada.

[\(Click here to see map with greater detail\)](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • johndonaldson.bravehost.com

P A G E 13

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



The Donaldson Network has amassed more than 5,500 newspaper references pertaining to the career of John Donaldson contradicting a popular assertion that the press did not report on activities of African Americans.

Thousands of articles are available at
johndonaldson.bravehost.com

In 2006 Donaldson was included on the final ballot of 39 Negro League players and executives considered for election to The National Baseball Hall of Fame. Donaldson's name was not



among the 17 inductees despite the support of Fay Vincent, the former commissioner of MLB and chairman of the special election committee.

“[2006] would be the final election...unless new research came out that would warrant another look.”

- Jeff Idelson President of the HOF in 2016.

The committee considering John Donaldson had much less information than is known today. In 2006 researchers had 146 wins with 2245 documented strikeouts to judge his worthiness for induction. Today, John Donaldson is known to have 399 wins with 4963 documented strikeouts.

[Click here to read the latest news on The National Baseball Hall of Fame](#)

T H E D O N A L D S O N
N E T W O R K

johndonaldson.bravehost.com

John Wesley Donaldson

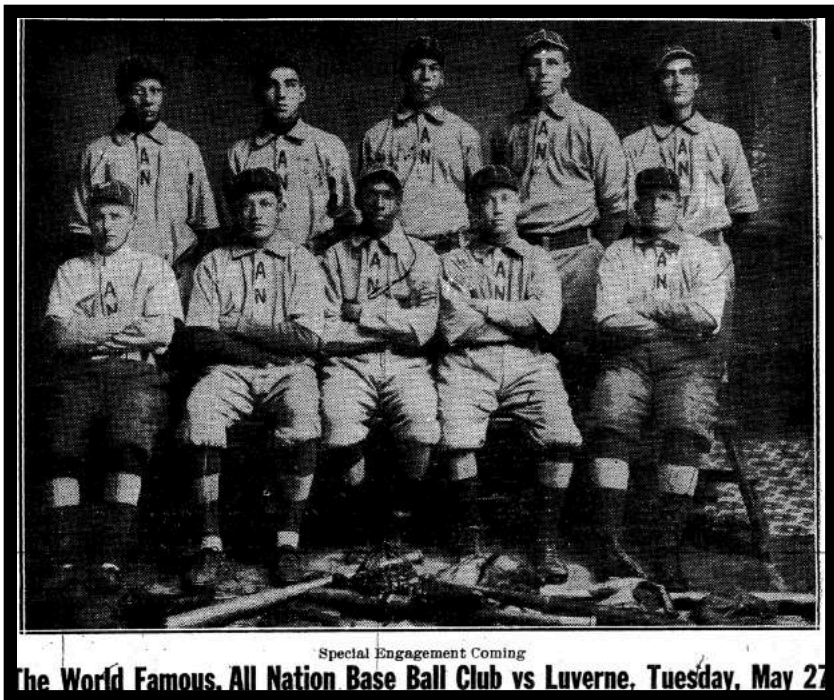
Documented Wins of Southpaw Pitcher John Donaldson

[Click here to see proof of all 399 wins
by John Donaldson](#)

John Wesley Donaldson

Documented Strikeouts of Southpaw Pitcher John Donaldson

[Click here to see proof of all 4963 known
strikeouts by John Donaldson](#)



1913 All Nations Advertisement

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johndonaldson.bravehost.com*

P A G E 16

“John Donaldson is – and there is no one that is qualified to speak authoritatively that will dispute it – the greatest colored baseball player of today and of all time.”

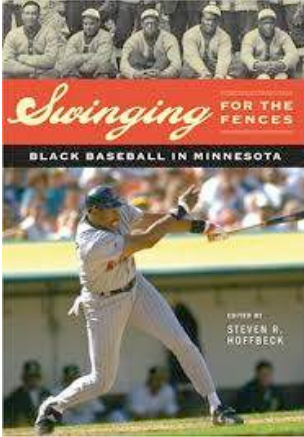
- 1927 Fairmont (MN) Daily Sentinel



John Donaldson's life in baseball spanned six decades. Beginning with the hard-scrabble barnstorming era prior to the organization of the Negro League through the leagues struggle to remain afloat during the Great Depression to his triumphant breaking of the MLB scouting color barrier and beyond. His story is the quintessential tale of baseball behind the walls of segregation.

THE DONALDSON
NETWORK

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



[Click to read:](#)
[John Wesley Donaldson,](#)
[a Great Mound Artist](#)
[excerpt from Swinging](#)
[For the Fences: Black](#)
[Baseball in Minnesota](#)



[News Clip:](#)
[Dakota Midday:](#)
[Restoring Lost Legacy](#)
[of Baseball Ace](#)

[News Clip: The Greatest](#)
[Pitcher You've Never Heard Of](#)
[by John Klima](#)



[News Clip: The lost](#)
[legacy of left-handed](#)
[power pitcher John](#)
[Donaldson](#)

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • johndonaldson.bravehost.com

P A G E 18

T H E D O N A L D S O N
N E T W O R K

johnaldson.bravehost.com



Document compiled
from the files of
The Donaldson Network
John Donaldson
Career Highlights
Missouri Sports
Hall of Fame

1227 Washington St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 •
telephone: 612-325-7815 • *johnaldson.bravehost.com*

P A G E 19