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## Archival Collection Finding Aid

<b>Name/Title:</b>	Negro Baseball Leagues Collection
<b>Subject(s)</b>	baseball
<b>Archival Collection #:</b>	113
<b>Accession #:</b>	various
<b>Source:</b>	various
<b>Date Acquired:</b>	various
<b>Span Dates:</b>	1900-1990s
<b>Processor(s):</b>	Jeanne Larsen

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### Abstract:

Photographs and articles pertaining to players and managers for various Negro Baseball Teams that played during the period circa 1900-1960s.

### History:

The Negro Leagues were formed as a direct result of not being allowed to play or compete in the "white" major leagues during the period from the mid 1880s through the mid 1940s. Teams were made up entirely of black players and these teams were known collectively as the Negro Leagues.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first black player to join the major leagues since the 1880s, which brought to an end the exclusion of black players from major league baseball. However, the players were often jeered at on the field by fans and teammates alike. A few more players joined the non-black leagues through the 1950s and by 1980 the number of black players was at an all-time high. However, during this time the leagues also drew criticism due to the lack of black players in the ranks of management and other areas "off the field". Baseball came to Grand Rapids after the Civil War, although as early as the turn of the century, colored teams were playing sandlot baseball. Jess Elster was instrumental in promoting the game of baseball within the black community. He became a player, manager, and sponsor. He formed the Athletics (aka the Colored Athletics) black baseball team, and they played not only in Grand Rapids, but throughout western Michigan. Jess Elster died in 1950.

In 1947, Ted Rasberry and Frank LeMar organized the Black Sox. This team toured and played in the Midwest and the South. They put together the Midwest League. Ted Rasberry bought the Negro American League's Kansas City Monarchs and the Detroit Stars in the 1950s. Mr. Rasberry died in April 2001.

### Scope and Content:

See also Accession #'s:

2000.53.1, 2001.62.1, 2002.45.1, 2002.45.2, 2002.45.5, N220226.1.1, N230916.1.1, N230916.1.3, N230916.1.4, N230916.1.5, N230916.1.6, N230916.1.8, N240625.1.1, N240625.1.2

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### Series Descriptions:

No.	Series Name	Description
I.	Photographs	Autographed reprint photographs of players from the colored baseball teams that played in western Michigan, the Midwest, and the South during the first half of the 20th century.
II.	Certificates	Lifetime Guarantee-Letter of Authenticity, which pertain to the signatures on the autographed reprints (see Series: Photographs) of former colored baseball team/league players.

III.	Statistics	A page from "Spalding's Official Baseball Guide" picturing players on the Colored Athletics team, Grand Rapids, Mich. ca. 1919. Players' names, positions, and overall team record are recorded.
IV.	Roster	A roster of players on black baseball teams in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a list of black baseball teams in Grand Rapids during the first half of the 20th century.
V.	Transcript	Oral interview transcript of Ted Rasberry (Former player and owner of the Black Sox and the Detroit Stars). In the interview, Mr. Rasberry relates his early years in Grand Rapids and his transition to the baseball profession. Richard Harms conducted the interview on May 14, 1991.
VI.	Articles	Modern newspaper clippings and internet articles featuring the careers of some of the former Negro League Baseball players, in addition to other noteworthy articles.
VII.	Photographic Reprints- NOT OWNED by the Public Museum of Grand Rapids	Photographic reprints (and/or negatives) that were acquired by the museum for possible inclusion in the temporary exhibit <i>A League of Their Own</i> (2003). The photographs were not used in the exhibit and have been added to this collection for documentation purposes. <b>Copies cannot be made without first obtaining permission from the institution whose name appears in the copyright stamp.</b>

**Container List:**

<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Description of Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Count</b>
1	1	I.	Reprint Autographed photographs: Grand Rapids Black Sox 4 Players; Grand Rapids Black Sox Team Pictures (2) 1 reprint and 1 "copy" reprinty and negatice	1950-2000	1 2 1
1	2	II.	Reprint Autographed Photographs: James "Sap" Ivory - Birmingham Black Barons Ted Rasberry - Detroit All-Stars Ted Rasberry and Jackie Robinson Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe Lester Lockett, Negro league All-Star	ca. 1950s-2000	1 1 1 1
1	3	II.	Lifetime Guarantee - Letter of Authenticity <i>(Certificates guaranteeing authenticity of autographed photographs in folders 1 and 2)</i>	2000	3
1	4	III.	Statistics page for Colored Athletics Grand Rapids, Mich. <i>"Spalding's Official Base Ball"</i>	ca. 1919	1
1	5	IV.	Black Baseball Teams in Grand Rapids 1900-1960 Rosters (compiled by Richard Harms) Booklet <i>Players on Black Baseball Teams 1900-1950</i> (compiled by the Grand Rapids Public Library)	1993; 1998  1992	2  1
1	6	V.	Interview Transcript-Ted Rasberry	1991	1 (16 pages)
1	7	VI.	Articles- newspaper; miscellaneous	no date to present	3
1	8	VII.	Photographic Reprints and Negatives <b><u>NOT OWNED BY THE PUBLIC MUSEUM OF GRAND RAPIDS</u></b>		5 Negatives 34 Reprints

1	8	VIII.	Grand Rapids Colored Athletics of 1917, Champions of Michigan, Won 22, Lost 3 <b>Source: Grand Rapids Public Library</b>	1917
1	8	VIII.	Norman "Turkey" Stearns, Detroit Stars, Negro National League <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Rube Foster, Founder Negro National League <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1920
1	8	VIII.	Page Fence Giants, Team Train Car <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Page Fence Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1896
1	8	VIII.	Moses Fleetwood Walker, Oberlin College Varsity Baseball Team <b>Source: Oberlin College Archives</b>	1881
1	8	VIII.	Findlay, Ohio Baseball Team w/ Bob Grant and Bus Fowler <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	c. 1890
1	8	VIII.	Satchel Paige <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Homestead Grays <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1943
1	8	VIII.	East All Stars <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1938
1	8	VIII.	Kansas City Monarchs with House of David in Canada <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1939
1	8	VIII.	Larry Doby <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Philadelphia Stars <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1939
1	8	VIII.	Indianapolis ABC's <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1922
1	8	VIII.	East - West Game <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1942
1	8	VIII.	James "Cool Papa" Bell <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Chicago Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1922
1	8	VIII.	Kansas City Monarchs <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1920
1	8	VIII.	St. Louis Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1916
1	8	VIII.	Pittsburgh Crawfords, outside Greenlee Stadium <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1935
1	8	VIII.	Chicago Leland Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Chicago American Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1919
1	8	VIII.	Newt Allen, T. J. Young, Turkey Stearns, Eddie Dwight, Carroll Mothel, Bullet Rogan <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	West All Star Team, Comiskey Park <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1947

1	8	VIII.	Kansas City Monarchs <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1936
1	8	VIII.	East West Game <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1937
1	8	VIII.	Hilldale Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1925
1	8	VIII.	Cuban Stars <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1921
1	8	VIII.	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1920
1	8	VIII.	Baltimore Black Sox <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1929
1	8	VIII.	Lincoln Giants <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1911
1	8	VIII.	Jackie Robinson <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	East West All Star Game <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	1939
1	8	VIII.	Kansas City Monarchs in Monarch Lighting Plant Ad <b>Source: Baseball Hall of Fame Library</b>	
1	8	VIII.	Detroit Stars <b>Credit: Dick Clark</b> <b>(Larry Lester, Noirtech Research Inc.)</b>	1926
1	8	VIII.	Detroit Stars <b>(Larry Lester, Noirtech Research Inc.)</b>	1923
1	8	VIII.	Detroit Stars <b>(Larry Lester, Noirtech Research Inc.)</b>	1922
1	8	VIII.	Detroit Stars <b>(Larry Lester, Noirtech Research Inc.)</b>	1919
1	8	VIII.	Bingo DeMoss- Chicago <b>(Larry Lester, Noirtech Research Inc.)</b>	