

Early Pioneers of the Negro Leagues:

Phillip “Daddy” Reid



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

and

Luis Munoz

St. Paul Gophers (1907)
Inaugural Season



St. Paul Gophers (1907)

(Back row left to right – Sammie Ransom- Johnny Davis, George Taylor and Fred Roberts. Seated left to right –
Sherman “Bucky” Barton, Willis Jones, **Clarence “Dude” Lytle**, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, Frank Davis,
Jesse Schaeffer and Thomas Means)

Phillip Edward “Daddy” Reid was born on June 10, 1854 in Frankfort, Kentucky. During his career, he went from a meager up bringing to being one of the richest and well-known African-Americans of his day.

Reid is most remembered and recognized for bringing “big time” professional black baseball to the Northwest. As the founder and owner of the St. Paul Gophers, Daddy Reid was not only one of the pioneers of black baseball in Minnesota, but his influence was felt all over the United States.

When he formed the St. Paul Gophers in 1907, he did not want them to be just another sandlot team with a roster of local players. Instead he wanted a professional baseball team of high quality ball players who could compete with the best black teams in the country. From their very first year in existence the St. Paul Gophers were considered one of the top black teams in the United States. Of the hundreds of owners of black teams over the history of black baseball in America, Phil Reid was by far the most successful. Current research indicates that from 1907 through 1910 his St. Paul Gophers compiled an “unofficial” won-loss record of 380-89-2 (.810).

A detailed breakdown of the Gophers won-loss record by year is as follows:

St. Paul Gophers

Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1907	90	16	1	.849
1908	97	26	1	.789
1909	88	20	0	.811
1910	105	27	0	.794
Total	380	89	2	.810



Phillip Reid
St. Paul Gophers
1907-1910

The St. Paul Gophers won numerous baseball tournaments, “Colored Champions of Minneapolis-St. Paul” titles, “Colored Champions of Minnesota,” “Independent Champions of the Northwest” titles and even winning the “Colored Championship of the World” in 1909. Even though most of their schedule was against lower level opponents and town teams, when the St. Paul Gophers played top level competition they usually came away with a victory.

Phillip Reid was also a very successful business man who was considered one of the richest African-Americans in the Northwest. In an article about Phillip Reid that appeared in the St. Paul Appeal on June 13, 1916, the newspaper had the following to say about Reid:

“He was one of the most influential and wealthiest Negroes in the Northwest
.....of a cheerful disposition, always willing to do an act of kindness.”

In addition he was a civic leader who was very influential in the community. Reid participated in many civic organizations and was a member of the Freemasons and Knights of Pythias.

“Daddy” Reid as he was affectionately known was a larger than life character. He was a big rotund man who did everything in a big and flamboyant manner. In today’s terms Phillip Reid “lived large.” He was said to have enjoyed sports (especially baseball), high stakes gambling, good cigars, fine liquor, fancy clothes, pretty women and fast times.

Reid was not only known in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, he was also well-known all over the country. Phil called baseball great Andrew “Rube” Foster and heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson as two of his best friends. When he married in July of 1910, he wed Belle Davis who was one of the most famous African-American entertainers in the United States. In 1901 Davis had moved to London, England where she became an international star. Reid had met Davis while he was traveling in Europe. Traveling abroad for pleasure by African-Americans was virtually unheard of during the times in which he lived, but that was “Daddy” Reid.

Due to the relatively short tenure of his career in professional baseball, Phillip Reid has been largely forgotten by baseball fans and historians.



The Appeal
St. Paul, MN
09-10-92

Early Career

Phillip Reid’s first real job was working for the railroad as a waiter in the dining car. By 1878 Phil had worked his way up the ladder to a position in the dining room on the Claredon express train which was famous for being the first hotel railroad car running between St. Louis (MO) and New York City (NY).

By the spring of 1880 Phil had left the railroad and had settled in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. His first job in the Twin Cities was working as a waiter in one of the big hotels in Minneapolis. Around 1888 he changed jobs and became a bartender and entertainer at the legendary Eureka Saloon. The saloon was owned by John H. Cunningham and was located at 384 Minnesota Street. By 1891 Phillip Reid had become the manager of the “new” Eureka Saloon that opened in February of 1891.

In 1898 Phillip Reid opened his own business which imported fine wines, liquors and cigars. The business was located at 337 Jackson Street in St. Paul. After seeing all the money that could be made in the saloon business and liquor sales, Reid and his life time friend John J. Hirschfield formed the partnership firm of Reid & Hirschfield and decided to open their own saloon in 1901. It was located in downtown St. Paul at 40 East Third Street. Their business venture was an immediate success and proved to be very profitable for the partnership. Reid also owned an insurance company and operated a moonlight steam boat with excursions that featured music, fine foods and alcoholic beverages. The moonlight excursion business on the steamer Lora opened in the summer of 1901 and was owned by the Big Four Club (Phillip Reid, Al Smith, Link Manley and Oscar Thompson).



The Appeal
St. Paul, MN
06-22-01

Both Reid and Hirschfield quickly became business leaders in the St. Paul African-American community and were also very active in civic affairs and politics. Some of the civic organizations in which Reid participated in and held office were: Gopher Lodge of the Improved Benevolent and the Protective Order of Elks, Chicago Club of Minneapolis, Twin Cities Jockey Club, Detroit Club of the Gopher Lodge, Pioneer Lodge of the Masons and Silver Star Club. Reid also served as the President of the Fourth Ward Afro-American Democratic Club.

Seeds of Professional Black Baseball in St. Paul

Before Daddy Reid formed the St. Paul Gophers, there had been numerous attempts over the years to establish a top level black baseball club in the Twin Cities. Some of the more notable of these teams were the Minneapolis Unions (1876), St. Paul Blue Stars (1876), St. Paul Quick Steps

(1887), Douglass Baseball Club (1897), St. Paul Giants (1905), Colored Independents (1907) and Minneapolis Keystones (1907).

Based on the success of local teams in Renville, St. Cloud and Waseca, it was obvious to Phillip Reid that Minnesota citizens both black and white would pay to watch high quality baseball. It was critically important to the success of a black baseball team in Minnesota to attract a large “white” fan base because the black population in Minnesota was very small. Daddy Reid loved baseball and loved making money. It only seemed natural that Reid would try to combine the two.

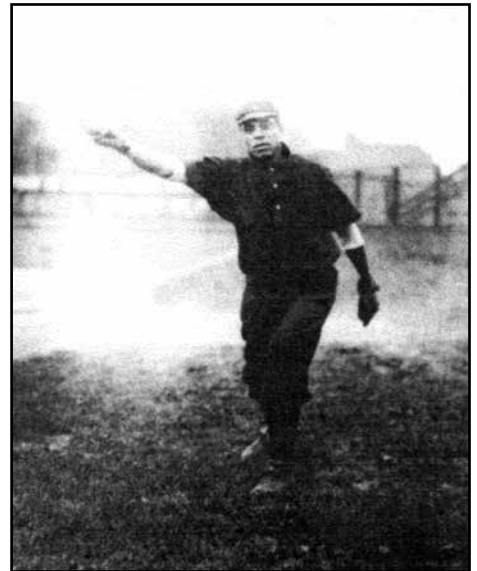
Reid and Hirschfield Form the St. Paul Gophers

During the winter of 1906 Phillip Reid and his business partner John J. Hirschfield began making plans for fielding their own professional baseball team. On February 23, 1907 the Duluth News Tribune reported that Reid and Hirschfield would field a squad that they termed would be “a real colored baseball team with the best players that money can secure” and the team would be called the “St. Paul Gophers.” Reid’s goal as he told the Nashville Globe was “to outclass all of the white semi-professionals of that section of the country.”

The first thing that Reid and Hirschfield did was to hire Walter Ball who had pitched for the Leland Giants in 1906. He was charged with the tasks of putting together a roster and establishing a schedule for the 1907 baseball season. Ball was an excellent choice because he was from the St. Paul area, he was already an established star and he had baseball contacts all over the country.

Reid and Hirschfield’s goal was to sign only players with “a national reputation” and organize a high quality roster that could compete with any black baseball team in the country. What Phil Reid and John Hirschfield did not want was another run-of-the-mill semipro team comprised of amateur local players.

Most of the players recruited by Walter Ball came from the Chicago area. Five players were signed from the roster of the Leland Giants. They were Andrew Campbell (C), Fred Roberts (2B), Dangerfield Talbert (3B), George Taylor (1B) and Albert Toney (SS). It is important to note that before the start of the regular season Dangerfield Talbert returned to the Leland Giants and was replaced by James Smith.



Walter Ball
St. Paul Gophers
1907

In addition Ball recruited four players from the Chicago Union Giants. All four of these players were starters on the 1907 St. Gophers team and were very productive towards the success of the team in their inaugural year. They were Sherman Barton (OF), Willis Jones (OF), Clarence “Dude” Lytle (P) and Jesse Schaeffer (C). In the short time that Walter Ball was with the Gophers at the beginning of the season he was the team captain and also pitched for the Gophers.

St. Paul Gophers Hit the Road

When all was said and done, Walter Ball had put together a “first class” team. Reid paid his players very well. Players made between \$ 75 to \$ 100 per month. This was a very good salary when you take into consideration that the average American worker made about \$ 13 a week for a work week that was sometimes as much as 60 hours in the early 1900’s. Phil Reid kept his payroll and expenses in check by carrying a roster of generally only 10-13 players. Initially the Gophers carried a 10 man roster that consisted of four infielders, two outfielders, three pitchers and a catcher. The limited number of players on the roster required a tremendous amount of versatility, especially among the pitchers who had to be able to play in the outfield on days when they weren’t pitching. It also was very important for a team to have pitchers on their roster who could hit.



St. Paul Gophers (1907)
Preseason Roster

(Back row left to right – Jesse Schaeffer, **Dangerfield Talbert**, **Sherman Barton**, George Taylor and **Willis Jones**.
Front row left to right – Albert Toney, **Clarence “Dude” Lytle**, **Walter Ball**, Fred Roberts and Andrew Campbell)

The starting line-up for the 1907 season for the St. Paul Gophers was as follows:

St. Paul Gophers (1907)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	George Taylor	OF	Sherman Barton
2B	Jimmy Smith/Sammie Ransom	OF	Willis Jones
SS	Frank “Bunch” Davis	OF	Clarence Lytle
3B	Fred Roberts/James Smith		
C	Jesse Schaeffer	P	Clarence Lytle
		P	Johnny Davis
		P	Thomas Means

Also pitching for the St. Gophers in 1907 were Walter Ball, Andrew “Rube” Foster, Will Horn and James Smith. Pitching records for the 1907 season are not complete. From the box scores and line scores that have been found, the following won-loss records for the 1907 Gophers pitchers are as follows: Clarence Lytle (19-7), John Davis (15-7), Thomas Means (14-0), James Smith (3-0), Will Horn (2-1), Rube Foster (1-0) and Walter Ball (1-2). According to unconfirmed newspaper accounts both Lytle and Davis were said to each have won at least 30 games during the season and that the Gophers pitching staff pitched at least 25 shut outs in 1907.

The Gophers were led during the 1907 season by the hitting of Jesse Schaeffer with a .320 batting average with a .513 slugging percentage and a team leading six (6) homeruns. Schaeffer was also an outstanding catcher with a cannon for an arm. Teams didn’t steal on Schaeffer.

Phillip “Daddy” Reid was the president and manager of the team, John J. Hirschfield served as the club treasurer and Irving Williams was hired as the club secretary. During the season Walter Ball (P), James Smith (3B) and George Taylor (1B) all served as captain of the team. The team captain was a very important job. In many respects it was like today’s team manager. The team

captain's responsibilities included making the line-up, deciding where players hit in the batting order, game strategy and any other responsibility that might come up when the team was on the field.

Administratively, Phillip Reid made Irving L. Williams the team's traveling secretary. Reid knew Williams very well because Williams was a waiter at Reid and Hirschfield's salon in St. Paul. Williams' responsibilities for the team included scheduling games, arranging for transportation, securing hotel reservations, arranging for publicity, paying the players and handling all of the finances when the team was on the road.

When all was said and done, the 1907 St. Paul Gophers were an exceptional, well-rounded team who played great team baseball even though they really didn't have any super star players on the roster. Offensively they were a solid hitting team with very good speed on the base paths. Defensively they were categorized as exceptional. The Gophers' real strength was their starting pitching rotation that included Clarence "Dude" Lytle, Johnny Davis and Tommy Means. Lytle was a spitball pitcher who just got batters out and won ball games. Johnny Davis relied on his knowledge of the game and his "brains" rather than trying to overpower the opposition. Thomas Means was very effective on the mound but was considered fragile as the season wore on. The only real strikeout artist that pitched for the Gophers in 1907 was Will Horn and he was only with the team for a short period of time.

The St. Paul Gophers conducted their spring training playing games in and around the Chicago (IL) area. The season was officially supposed to start in late April with games in Chicago, South Bend (IN) and Eau Claire (WI). Unfortunately for Reid six of their first seven games were postponed due to rainouts. The only game that was played was on April 21st when St. Paul faced off against the Riverviews of the Lake Shore League. The game was played at Riverview Park which was located on the north side of Chicago. The Riverviews beat the Gophers by a score of 6-4 with Walter Ball taking the loss.



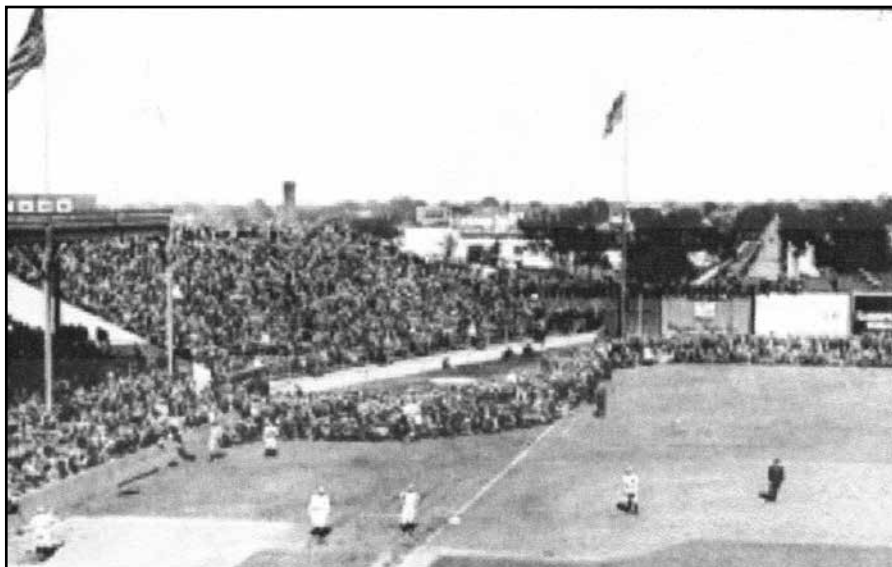
St. Paul Gophers (1907)

(Back row left to right –Jesse Schaefer, Sammie Ransom, **Irving Williams**, **Sherman Barton** and Frank Davis. Middle row left to right – **Willis Jones**, George Taylor, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, **John J. Hirschfield**, Johnny Davis and Thomas Means. Front row left to right – Fred Roberts and **Clarence “Dude” Lytle**.)

After their loss to the Riverviews and several changes in the starting line-up, the Gophers caught fire and went 13-1 for the rest of the month of May. Their first home game in St. Paul was supposed to have been played on May 4th at Downtown Park against Lund Lands but it was cancelled due to bad weather. The two teams met on May 18th for the “official” home opener for the Gophers. St. Paul edged out Lund Lands by a score of 10-9. The game was played across the river from St. Paul at Nicollet Park in Minneapolis. One of the highlights of the month of May for the St. Paul Gophers was beating Eau Claire (WI) of the Wisconsin State League in back to back games by the scores of 4-2 and 6-4. Thomas Means got the win in the first game and Walter Ball won the second game while striking out eight Eau Claire batters. What made these two wins so special was that the Eau Claire Tigers were the champions of Wisconsin State League in 1907.

Right after the season started there were several changes to the team’s roster. Albert Toney left the team and was replaced by Frank “Bunch” Davis of the Chicago Union Giants. Andrew Campbell left the team when it became obvious that Jesse Schaeffer was going to be the Gophers’ starting catcher. In addition Walter Ball quit in mid-May to join the Leland Giants when he was not given a bigger role in running the team or a piece of the ownership of the Gophers. Walter Ball did not feel that Phillip Reid was appreciative of the job that he had done in putting together such an outstanding squad. When Ball left the Gophers, Jimmy Smith became the captain of the team. In response to Ball’s departure, Phil Reid signed Leland’s Giants hurlers, Will Horn and Thomas Means, to bolster the pitching staff. During the season the St. Paul Gophers were a relatively stable team with most of their roster changes being at the discretion of Gophers’ management.

When the regular season started, the Gophers played the majority of the schedule on the road. During the season St. Paul conducted barnstorming tours of Wisconsin in May, North Dakota in June, South Dakota in July, Iowa in September, Illinois and Minnesota. The tours through Minnesota and into Illinois occurred throughout the season. When the St. Paul Gophers were on the road, they generally played every day. The Gophers traveled exclusively by train which made it significantly easier to get from one city to another. With their reputation of being a high caliber team with players who had a national reputation, the St. Paul Gophers played to large crowds in virtually every city in which they scheduled games. In addition Reid quite often got the home team that they were playing to pay for St. Paul’s lodging, transportation and offer a guaranteed payment. Daddy Reid, however, generally preferred to play on a 60/40 basis with the winner of the game getting 60 % of the gate after expenses and the loser getting 40 % of the net revenues.

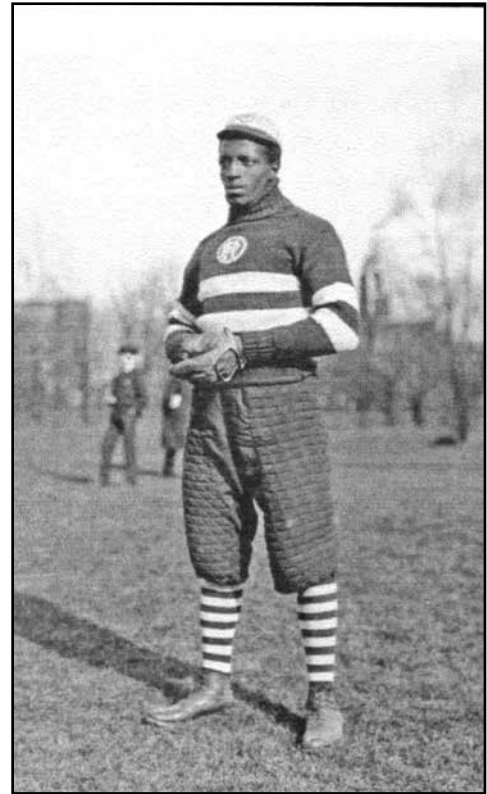


Lexington Park
One of the Home Fields of the St. Paul Gophers

Booking games during the season especially in smaller towns was fiercely competitive because there were numerous other barnstorming teams competing for the same markets. Some the quality teams that traveled throughout the Northwest and Midwest during the 1907 season were the Chicago Union Giants, Guy Green's Nebraska Indians, Bloomer Girls and the Hopkins Brothers.

Most of the St. Paul Gophers home games were played at Downtown Park which was located between 12th and 13th Streets in downtown St. Paul. Downtown Park was often referred to as the "pill box" because of its relatively small size. When the Gophers were scheduling a "big game" with an anticipated large crowd, they would play at Lexington Park which was located about a mile west of the downtown area. The St. Paul Gophers also played several games during the 1907 season at Premo Park in West St. Paul. Over the years the Gophers also played home games at Lexington Park and Nicollet Park

In early June the St. Paul Gophers made a key acquisition when Daddy Reid signed pitcher Johnny Davis away from the Chicago Union Giants. Davis was considered a star pitcher with Major League talent. Another key roster change for Reid during June was when second baseman Jimmy Smith left the team to sign with the Chicago Unions Giants. Smith was replaced at second base by Sammie Ransom. Ransom was considered by many as the greatest all-around college athlete of his day when he attended Beloit College in Wisconsin.



Sammie Ransom
St. Paul Gophers
1907

On June 15th the St. Paul Gophers played the Minneapolis All Stars. Johnny Davis pitched the Gophers to a 4-3 win. From newspaper records that have been uncovered the St. Paul Gophers went 15-2 (.882) during the month of June.

The highlight of the month of July for St. Paul was a four game series that they played against the Hibbing (MN) Colts. Hibbing was a powerhouse and spared no expense in signing players to field a very strong professional line-up. The Hibbing Colts became one of the Gophers arch rivals during the history of the team. The Gophers went 2-1-1 during the series. Davis won the opening game which was played in Duluth (MN) on June 24th by a score of 4-0 in 14 innings. The second game ended in a 2-2 tie when it was postponed after only four innings. On June 23rd Clarence Lytle pitched the Gophers to a 7-3 win. The Hibbing Colts won the last game in the series by a score of 5 to 1. Will Horn was charged with the loss for the Gophers.

The month of July was incredibly successful for the St. Paul Gophers. Johnny Davis started the month off with a bang. On July 2nd he pitched a 1-0 no-hitter against La Crosse of the Wisconsin League. Even with numerous roster changes throughout the first part of the season, the Gophers kept on winning. They went 26-0 during the month of July. This 26-0 winning streak was also part of a 37 game winning streak that ran from June 25th until August 10th. The only real loss for St. Paul was off the field when Will Horn left the team in mid-July to play for the Chicago Union Giants.

The team returned home to St. Paul early in the first week of August to face off against the best semi-professional teams in the area. According to a short article that appeared in The Appeal newspaper on August 3rd, the Gophers returned home from the Dakotas and Wisconsin with a record of 56-2 (.966).

Another one of the highlights of the season for the Gophers occurred on August 7th when Clarence “Dud” Lytle pitched a 12-0 no hitter against the Rochester Stars. During the month of August the St. Paul Gophers won the prestigious Lester Prairie Baseball Tournament and its \$ 150 first prize. St. Paul took the title by defeating the White Diamonds by a score of 9-3 in the championship game. The Gophers also won the Watertown (MN) Baseball Tournament on August 21st. In the championship game the St. Paul Gophers battled from being down by a score of 5-1 early in the game to take a 6-5 victory in 10 innings. Newspaper reports credit the St. Paul Gophers with a phenomenally impressive record of 75-5-1 (.938) with twenty-two (22) shutouts by the end of August.



Clarence “Dude” Lytle
St. Paul Gophers

Gopher Ace No-Hits – Rochester Stars
08-07-07

From August 31st to September 3rd the St. Paul Gophers played a critical four game series against the Hibbing Colts. Games were played at both Downtown Park and Lexington Park during the St. Paul-Hibbing series. With a depleted starting line-up the Gophers lost three of the four games. To make matters worse Daddy Reid also lost a \$ 500 side bet to the owner of the Hibbing Colts.

COLORED GOPHERS

At the Big Fillmore County Fair and Street Carnival on Sept. 20.

The Fair management has compelled all arrangements for two big ball games at the fair on Sept. 19th and 20th. On the 19th Harmony and Caladonia teams will fight for a \$100 purse; the winner of this game will also play the famous Colored Gophers of St. Paul on the 20th for a purse of \$200. The Gophers are unquestionably the greatest aggregation of colored ball players ever before the public, and are selected from the following colored team of the United States: Cuban Giants of New York City; Philadelphia Giants of Pa.; Chicago Union Giants, Columbus Giants and Leland Giants of Chicago; Algona Brownies of Algona, Iowa; Danville Unions of Danville, Ill., and Page Fence Giants of Adrian, Mich.

After their loss the St. Paul Gophers embarked upon a road trip first to Wisconsin and then to Iowa. The first game on the road trip was played in Hudson (WI) and was called in the first inning when a melee occurred when an argument broke out after a St. Paul runner had been called out after a close call at second base. St. Paul's next game was in Osceola (WI) and ended in a 4-3 loss by the Gophers. The St. Paul Gophers then went on an eleven (11) game winning streak. Included in the winning streak were two tournament championships in Iowa. The first tournament occurred on September 19th at the Zumbrota Street Fair Baseball Tournament. The title came with a \$ 500 first prize. The Gophers won their second title of the month at the Fillmore County Fair Baseball Tournament with a 5-3 win over the Harmony baseball team. St. Paul also took home the \$ 200 first prize money.

Twice –A-Week Plain Dealer
Cresco, IA
08-27-07



St. Paul Gophers (1907)

Chaska Valley Herald
08-01-07

(Back row left to right – **Clarence “Dud” Lytle**, Fred Roberts, **Sherman Barton**, **Will Horn**, Jesse Schaeffer and George Taylor. Front row left to right – **Willis Jones**, James Smith, Frank Davis and **Thomas Means**.)

In late September, the St. Paul Gophers met the St. Paul Saints of the American Association in a four game series that was played at Downtown Park. Due to the reputation that the St. Paul Gophers had established coming into the game, the Saints bolstered their roster for the series with several key players from the Minneapolis Millers and Milwaukee Brewers. The series began on September 21st with a 1-0 shut out pitched by Clarence “Dude” Lytle of the Gophers. The Saints came back the next day and beat the Gophers by a score of 6 to 3. On September 23rd Phil Reid brought in his good friend, Andrew “Rube” Foster, to pitch against the white Minor Leaguers. Foster responded and pitched the St. Paul Gophers to a 5-3 win. Rube only allowed two hits and struck out ten (10). The final game of the series was played on September 24th and ended in a 4-4 tie. It was played in frigid weather with less than 100 fans in the bleachers. When the dust settled the St. Paul Gophers had defeated the American Association in two games, lost one and one game ended in a tie.

With a banged up, worn out and depleted roster the St. Paul Gophers went 0-5-1 in their next six games. St. Paul ended their 1907 season in mid-October with a game against the Riverviews in Chicago. No box score has yet been found for this game.

The St. Paul Gophers ended the season with a reported won-loss record of 90-16-1 (.849). The St. Paul Gophers did not fare as well at the end of the season as they had done throughout the rest of the season primarily because of injuries. The following players suffered injuries that impacted their ability to play late in the season: Johnny Davis (arm strain), Willis Jones (ankle injury), Clarence “Dude” Lytle (arm strain) and Sammie Ransom (broken shoulder). Daddy Reid used local sandlot ball players to fill in his roster to finish off the 1907 season.

St. Paul Wins Series with St. Paul Saints

Without a doubt the highlight of the season for Phil Reid and John Hirschfield was defeating the St. Paul Saints of the American Association. Their victory for the strong Minor League opponent coupled with their impressive won-loss record for the season firmly established the St. Paul Gophers as one of the best black teams in the country.

ST. PAUL ASSOCIATION TEAM FADES AWAY BEFORE "DUDE" LYTLE.

Colored Wonder in Great Form and
Gophers Win by Score of 1 to 0.

The St. Paul American Association team, which won the "cellar" championship in that league, and which is now playing a series of games with the colored Gophers for the State championship, ran into a nice coat of whitewash in their first struggle. "Dude" Lytle had his famous "no hit" ball working nicely and the big leaguers were doing all kinds of funny stunts trying to solve his delivery. The leaguers only got five scattered hits off Lytle, and just to make them feel good the "Dude" gave three bases on balls. These lifts proved to be of the "lemon" variety, because Lytle was so economical that he never even allowed a man to reach third base.

St. Paul—	A.B.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Dunleavy, 2b	4	0	1	1	2	0
Davis, cf	2	0	1	1	0	0
Geier, ss	4	0	0	2	3	1
Drill, c	2	0	1	1	3	2
Graham, 3b	4	0	1	0	1	1
Essick, rf	4	0	0	1	0	0
Rodebaugh, lf	4	0	1	3	0	0
Ford, 1b	4	0	0	6	1	0
Farris, p	4	0	0	0	0	1

Totals	33	0	5	27	9	3
Gophers—	A.B.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
B. Davis, ss	4	0	0	3	3	0
Roberts, 3b	4	1	2	1	1	2
Schaefer, c	4	0	1	2	1	0
J. Davis, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Lytte, p	2	0	0	1	4	0
Taylor, 1b	4	0	0	12	0	0
Barton, cf	4	0	0	1	0	0
Jones, lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
McMurray, 2b	3	0	2	5	2	0

Totals 34 1 5 27 11 2
St. Paul 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
Gophers ... 0 0 0 1 0 0 0—1
Two base hits—Schaefer, Roberts.
Stolen bases—L. Davis, J. Davis,
Lytte. Bases on balls—Off Farris, 1;
off Lytte, 3. Struck out—By Farris,
13; by Lytte, 2. Wild pitch—Farris.
Sacrifice hit—L. Davis. Left on bases
—St. Paul, 10; Gophers, 7. Time—
1:50. Umpire—Corbett. Attendance
—1,000.

ST. PAUL COLORED TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP OVER BIG LEAGUERS, 5 TO 3.

(By David Wyatt.)

Mr. Rube Foster was dispatched out to St. Paul to put on the finishing touch in the big baseball series. When it comes to those things, baseballic speaking, we always find Mr. Rueben on the job. Rube was there with the strong arm and the way he shover the sphere across the plate was worth going miles to see. Rube made ten of the leaguers fan the air, and the rest went "dippy" watching the operation. A great big reputation for the colored lads depended upon the result of this game, as it was the thrid of the series; each team having one apiece to their credit. The leaguers strengthened up a bit with a combination which we would pronounce Milwaukee-Milwaukee-St. Paul—not a railroad. Still the colored lads had 'em all the while trying to prevent a shutout, and only for a little nervousness on the part of Rube's team mates, he would have turned the trick. That would have been rubbing it in too hard, as "Dude" Lytle had just handed 'em a bunch on nine nice, big goose eggs in the first of the series. Anyhow, the boys are now the champs of that enterprising city in the Northwest, and when the boys return to their old stamping ground they will receive a hearty welcome. The people of St. Paul are proud of the team and are leading journal and newspaper men say the team has done more to advertise the city throughout the Northwest than any organization ever sent out of the city. The boys deserve the praise and we hope their victory will not increase the size of their hats, because we would hate to have to lower them over here in the windy city, but if they get swelled Rube says he'll have to take 'em. Then we will be compelled to tell you how we are the doers of things in Chicago. We will have a chance soon to see the Leland Giants in an endurance test, as a series has been arranged to be played in Chicago in one week; Lelands against Milwaukee one day, Minneapolis next, and the best team in the city upon the next.

That's going some. Below is the St. Paul and colored Gophers score:

St. Paul..	A.B.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Dunleavy, 2b	5	1	2	2	1	0
Davis, cf	4	1	1	2	1	0
Geier, ss	4	0	0	2	4	2
Drill, c	2	0	1	3	1	0
Graham, 3b	4	0	0	2	2	0
Corbett, lf and 1b	4	0	0	9	0	2
Essick, rf and lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Ford, 1b and rf	3	1	1	3	0	1
*O'Malley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rodebaugh, p	4	0	0	0	7	1

Totals	34	3	2	26	16	6
Gophers..	A.B.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
B. Davis, ss	3	0	2	2	2	1
Roberts, 3b	4	0	1	0	1	
Schaefer, c	4	0	0	12	0	1
Lytte, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Foster, p	4	0	1	0	3	0
FREEMAN—6						
Taylor, 1b	3	0	1	10	0	0
Barton, cf	4	1	1	1	1	0
Jones, lf	4	2	0	1	0	1
McMurray, 2b	2	1	0	1	2	1

Totals 32 5 5 27 9 5.
*Batted for Ford in ninth.

St. Paul 0 0 3 0 0 0 0—3
Gophers 0 0 2 2 0 0 1—5

Two-base hits—Foster, Dunleavy, B. Davis, Ford. Home run—Barton. Stolen bases—Dunleavy, Lefty Davis, Geier. Bases on balls—Off Foster, 4. Struck out—By Foster, 10; by Rodebaugh, 4. Passed ball—Schaefer. Wild pitch—Foster. Sacrifice hits—B. Davis, Taylor, McMurray. Left on bases—St. Paul, 8; Gophers, 2. Time—1:45. Umpire—Werden. Attendance—800.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
10-12-07

Research by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team identifies the St. Paul Gophers as one of the top four teams in the West during the 1907 season. The other top teams in the West in 1907 were the Chicago Leland Giants, Chicago Union Giants and the Indianapolis ABCs.

Reid Builds on the Success of the Gophers

In January of 1908, Phillip Reid sent Irving Williams to Chicago to sign players for the upcoming season. Before Williams went to Chicago, Reid had already signed Sherman Barton (OF), Frank “Bunch” Davis (SS), Willis Jones (OF), Clarence “Dude” Lytle (P) and Will Mc Murray (3B) around which he was going to build his 1908 Gophers starting line-up. Veteran players George Taylor and Fred Davis were not resigned. When Williams returned from Chicago he had signed the following players: George “Rat” Johnson (C), Bill Gatewood (P), Howard Petway (P), Haywood “Kissing Bug” Rose (1B) and Felix “Dick” Wallace. With very limited baseball experience, Irving Williams had done an excellent job of rounding out the 1908 St. Paul Gophers starting line-up.



St. Paul Gophers (1908)

(Back row left to right – **George “Rat” Johnson**, Howard Petway, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, **John J. Hirschfield**, **Sherman Barton** and Haywood Rose. Middle row left to right – Frank Davis, Will McMurray, Irving Williams, **Clarence “Dude” Lytle** and **Big Bill Gatewood**. Front row left to right – **Willis Jones**, team mascot and **Felix “Dick” Wallace**.)

The starting line-up for the 1908 season was as follows:

St. Paul Gophers (1908)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Haywood Rose	OF	Sherman Barton
2B	Felix “Dick” Wallace	OF	Willis Jones
SS	Frank “Bunch” Davis	OF	Clarence Lytle
3B	Will McMurray		
C	George “Rat” Johnson	P	Clarence Lytle
		P	Bill Gatewood
		P	Howard Petway

Felix “Dick” Wallace (.322), Willis Jones (.294), Sherman Barton (.262) and Haywood Rose (.254) led the Gophers in hitting in 1908. The St. Paul Gophers played the majority of the season with a two man pitching staff of Clarence “Dude” Lytle (28-6) and Bill Gatewood (21-17). Howard Petway (5-1), Frank Davis (2-1) and Rube Foster (1-0) also pitched for St. Paul in 1908.

Before the start of the season George “Rat” Johnson was named the team captain/field manager of the team. St. Paul played the majority of its home games at Downtown Park during the 1908 season.



George “Rat” Johnson
St. Paul Gophers (1908)
Catcher and Team Captain

The St. Paul Gophers conducted their spring training for their 1908 baseball season in mid-April in the Chicago area. After a game that was supposed to be played against Alamos was cancelled, the Gophers opened their 1908 season in Aurora (IL) on April 29th against the Duluth White Sox of the Northern League. With left handed newcomer Howard Petway on the mound, St. Paul took a 9-3 victory over their Minor League competition. The next day the team traveled to Rockford (IL) to play the Rockford Reds of the Wisconsin-Illinois League. The Gophers were no match for the Reds as Bill Gatewood got hammered in a 7-1 loss. On May 1st the team embarked on a road trip through Wisconsin. Besides local teams and semi-professional squads, the St. Paul Gophers also played several games against teams from the Wisconsin-Illinois League.

The road trip was very successful from the perspective of the team’s play because they went 14-2-1 (.875) in the won-loss column but was a financial disaster because five games were cancelled due to bad weather. For Phillip Reid no game equaled not getting paid and that was a significant problem.



St. Paul Gophers (1908)

(Standing left to right – Haywood Rose, **George “Rat” Johnson**, **Clarence “Dude” Lytle**, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, Bill Gatewood, **Sherman “Bucky” Barton** and Will McMurray.
Seated – left to right – Frank Davis, **Felix “Dick” Wallace** and **Willis Jones**.)

When the St. Paul Gophers returned from their road trip they played the Austin Westerners in a two game series. Game one of the series was played on May 30th at Downtown Park. The Austin Westerners handed Bill Gatewood and the Gophers a 5-4 loss. St. Paul redeemed themselves the next day with Howard Petway pitching a brilliant game on his way to a 2-1 win at Lexington Park.

The team started the month of June in fine fashion with a nine (9) game winning streak before they dropped a pair to Lund’s Landing by the scores of 1-0 and 7-5. Bill Gatewood got the team back on track by pitching a 3-0 shutout in the third game of their series with Lund’s Landing. The St. Paul Gophers finished out the month of June with an eleven (11) game winning streak that gave them a record of 20-2 (.909) for the month. Unfortunately for Reid he suffered two more game cancellations in June. This gave him eight (8) cancellations just two months into the season which had a very negative impact on the profitability of the team.

On July 1st the St. Paul Gophers arrived in Duluth (MN) to play a twelve (12) game series in the Iron Range. The first six games of the series were played against their arch rival, the Hibbing Colts. Hibbing took five out of the six games which were played at Duluth’s Athletic Park. After splitting two games with Eveleth (MN), the Gophers travelled to Hibbing where they got a small measure of revenge by beating the Colts by a score of 7-6 on their home field. Clarence “Dude” Lytle got the win for St. Paul. The Gophers closed out their road trip by taking two out of three games from Virginia (MN). After their road trip the St. Paul Gophers returned to Downtown Park to play a two game series with Austin Westerners. The Gophers lost the first game and came back to capture the second.

After beating the Austin Westerners on July 16th, the St. Paul Gophers left town on a thirty-four (34) day road trip that took them through four states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota). Even with several rough outings, the St. Paul Gophers boasted an impressive record of 58-10-1 (.847) at the mid-season mark.



Andrew "Rube" Foster
St. Paul Gophers
No-Hits Hibbing Colts
August 1908

Reid's Gophers started the month of August with a 6-1 win over Parker (SD) and then went on to win their next ten (10) games. Going into late August the St. Paul Gophers roster and pitching staff was becoming depleted and Reid was facing two tough games against the Hibbing Colts. Daddy Reid's answer was real easy, call upon his old friend Andrew "Rube" Foster. The first game of the Hibbing series was played on August 28th. Approximately 1,600 fans attended the game which was played at Downtown Park in St. Paul. Daddy Reid got more than his money's worth in hiring Rube Foster to pitch the game against Hibbing. Foster hurled a 5-0 no-hitter and only gave up two walks. Clarence "Dude" Lytle took the mound for the Gophers the next day and pitched a four hitter that resulted in an 8-2 win for St. Paul.

The Gophers had started the month of September in St. Paul with a 3-2 win over Hibbing. After winning their series with Hibbing the St. Paul Gophers traveled to Watertown (MN). A 14-7 win over Watertown Stars gave Reid's team the Watertown Baseball Tournament championship and the \$ 125 first prize that came along with the title.

After disposing of Watertown the Gophers returned to Downtown Park to play the Prairie Island Indians who had come to town with an unbelievable record of 41-4 (.911). Even with their impressive record the Indians were no match for the Gophers. St. Paul collected 12 hits in route to a 13-5 beating of Prairie Island. After disposing of the Indians, the Gophers left St. Paul for a two week barnstorming trip of southern Minnesota. During their tour they stopped off in Graham (MN) to play in the Blue Earth County Fair Baseball Tournament. The Gophers reached the finals and defeated the Austin Westerners in two games by the scores of 9-6 and 5-4 to win the tournament championship and the \$ 350 cash prize money that came with the title. With an overworked pitching staff the St. Paul Gophers went on to lose five of their next six games. Three of these losses were at the hands of the St. Paul Saints of the American Association.

Minneapolis Keystones Challenge the St. Paul Gophers

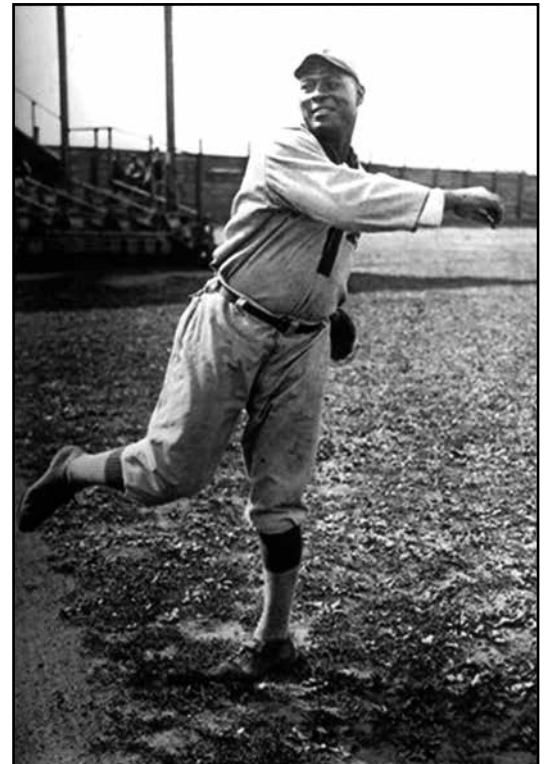
The 1908 season also produced a strong cross town rival for the St. Paul Gophers with a team called the Minneapolis Keystones. While there were several other black teams in and around the Minneapolis-St. Paul area when the St. Paul Gophers were formed in 1907, it wasn't until 1908 that there was not another black professional team who could compete at the same level as the Gophers. The Minneapolis Keystones were formed by Edward "Kidd" Mitchell who also owned the Keystone Hotel and Buffet. Kidd's goal was very simple: he wanted to put together a team that was better than Daddy Reid's St. Paul Gophers. Prior to the start of the 1908 season the Minneapolis Keystones had been a semipro team made up of local sandlot players. Kidd transformed the Keystones into a full-fledged professional team prior to the start of the 1908 baseball season. The Twin Cities now had two major professional black teams.

The first thing that Mitchell did was sign local hero Bobby Marshall (OF/1B) and several other former members of the 1907 St. Paul Gophers' squad. Former Gophers who signed with Kidd included: Walter Ball (P), William Binga (3B), Andrew Campbell (C), Fred Roberts (2B) and Dick Wallace (C). Also signed to play for the Keystones were Eugene Barton (OF), George Hopkins (OF), Charles Jackson (P), Charles Jessup (P) and Topeka Jack Johnson (1B). Eugene Barton (.302) led the team in hitting and Charles Jessup (18-6) was the ace of the pitching staff.

When he was finished building his roster Kidd Mitchell had put together a formidable line-up. With the formation of the Minneapolis Keystones, the St. Paul Gophers now had a serious cross town rival.

With two strong black professional teams in the Twin Cities, it only seemed natural that they would play each other. As the summer progressed local baseball fans and the media expressed significant interest in seeing the Gophers and Keystones play each other. Both owners blamed each other in newspaper interviews for the others refusal to schedule a series. Daddy Reid even publically stated in a newspaper interview that not only was his team ready to play the Keystones but he was also willing to place a significant side bet with Kidd Mitchell on the outcome of the series. Even when the National Black Elks Convention came to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in late August, both the Gophers and Keystones scheduled games with the Birmingham Giants rather than play each other.

Unfortunately for the baseball local fans a series for the Gophers and Keystones to play each other did not happen until late in the season. When the two teams finally agreed to play each other both squads had posted impressive won-loss records up to that point in the 1908 season. The St. Paul Gophers were 68-16-1 (.805) and the Minneapolis Keystones purported to have an even better record at 74-10-2 (.872). From late August to late September eight games were scheduled between the two teams. Besides being what was projected as a good financial pay out for both teams, the series would also crown a "Colored Champion of the Twin Cities." The Gophers won the first game of the series which was played on August 27th at Downtown Park. Bill Gatewood took to the mound for the Gophers and the Keystones countered with Charles Jessup who was the ace of their pitching staff. Steady pitching by Big Bill Gatewood and nine hits collected by the Gophers led to a 6-2 win. Approximately 1,800 fans were on hand for the inaugural game of the series. The Minneapolis Keystones came back and won games two and three of the series which were played on August 30th and September 20th. Games four and five were played on September 21st and 22nd and St. Paul won both games by the scores of 6-3 and 6-0. The last three games of the series which were to be played out of town were cancelled for some unknown reason.



Bill Gatewood
St. Paul Gophers

Of the five games played, the St. Paul Gophers won three and with that they claimed the titles of "Colored Champions of Minneapolis-St. Paul" and the "Colored Championship of Minnesota." Besides winning the series and championship, Daddy Reid also won a \$ 500 side bet from Kidd Mitchell who owned the Minneapolis Keystones.

A summary of the 1908 series between the Minneapolis Keystones and St. Paul Gophers is:

Minneapolis Keystones vs St. Paul Gopher Series (1908)

Game	Date	Location	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher
1	08-27	Downtown Park	St. Paul Gophers	6-2	Bill Gatewood
2	08-30	Minnehaha Driving Park	Minneapolis Keystones	9-2	Charles Jackson
3	09-20	Minnehaha Driving Park	Minneapolis Keystones	4-3	Charles Jackson
4	09-21	Downtown Park	St. Paul Gophers	6-3	Bill Gatewood
5	09-22	Nicollet Park	St. Paul Gophers	6-0	Clarence Lytle
6	09-30	Rochester (MN)	Game cancelled		
7	10-01	Winona (MN)	Game cancelled		
8	10-02	La Crosse (WI)	Game cancelled		

St. Paul closed out its 1908 season with two games against the La Crosse Pinks of the Wisconsin-Illinois League on October 3rd and 4th. La Crosse was a formidable opponent. The Pinks had gone 66-57 (.537) for their 1908 Wisconsin-Illinois League schedule and had come in third place in the final “league” standings. The St. Paul Gophers’ roster was so depleted that the La Crosse grounds keeper was enlisted to play right field for the Gophers. Bill Gatewood won the first game for St. Paul by a narrow margin of 7-6. La Crosse came back to beat outfielder Willis Jones who was forced to take the mound because the St. Paul Gophers had run out of pitchers. Jones pitched fairly well, but Crosse won the game by a score of 4-1.

The St. Paul Gophers compiled a won-loss record of 97-26-1 (.789) during the 1908 season. The Hope Pioneer of Hope, North Dakota published an article in 1909 that credits the 1908 St. Paul Gophers with a record of 126-21 (.857). Regardless of their exact won-loss record, the St. Paul Gophers had an excellent winning record and extremely successful season in 1908. According to Gary Ashwill and the Seamheads research team, the St. Paul Gophers were the top black team in the North in 1908. They were also the Colored Champions of Minneapolis-St. Paul and the Colored Champions of Minnesota during the season.

Phillip Reid’s Team Claims a “World’s Championship”

After going 7-8 (.467) over the last three weeks of the 1908 season, Daddy Reid was determined to strengthen his team for the 1909 season. Prior to the start of the 1909 season, only four players from the 1908 season were offered contracts. They were Felix “Dick” Wallace who was also named team captain (essentially the manager of the team), Sherman “Bucky” Barton, Will McMurray and George “Rat” Johnson.

To scout new players for his 1909 squad, Daddy Reid accompanied his good friend Rube Foster on the Leland Giants spring training tour of the South. On March 6th Reid left Chicago with the Leland Giants in a private railroad car for a road trip that would cover 4,465 miles. During the tour Phillip Reid signed Artie McDougall (SS) away from the Memphis Union Giants and Julius London (P) from the roster of the Houston Black Buffaloes. Phil Reid also recruited Candy Jim Taylor (3B) and Steel Arm Johnny Taylor (P) from the Birmingham Giants. The Birmingham Giants were owned and operated by the oldest Taylor brother, Charles Isham better known as C.I. The Taylor brothers joined the St. Paul Gophers after the start of the season. In addition Phil Reid raided his cross town rival, the Minneapolis Keystones, and signed William Binga (OF) and Bobby Marshall (1B). Marshall, who had briefly played with the Gophers in 1907, was a particularly important signing because he was a huge drawing card in Minnesota. Bobby had broken the color barrier at the University of Minnesota where he set numerous football records that eventually earned him a spot in the College Football Hall of Fame. Marshall was an all-around athlete excelling in at least five sports (baseball, football, track, wrestling and hockey). Besides being a great athlete Marshall also earned a law degree. Other key signings for Reid for the 1909 season were Johnny Davis (P) from Galesville (WI), Dick Garrison (P) of the Leland Giants and Eugene Milliner (OF).

St. Paul Gophers (1909)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Bobby Marshall	OF	Sherman Barton
2B	Felix “Dick” Wallace	OF	William Binga
SS	Artie McDougall	OF	Eugene Milliner
3B	Candy Jim Taylor		
C	Will Mc Murray	P	Julius London
		P	Johnny Taylor
		P	Johnny Davis



St. Paul Gophers (1909)

(Back row left to right – William McMurray, **George “Rat” Johnson**, **Bobby Marshall**, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, **Julius London**, **William Binga** and Felix Wallace. Front row left to right – Archie Pate, **Eugene Milliner**, Dick Garrison, **Sherman Barton** and Artie McDougall.)

The 1909 St. Paul Gophers were an outstanding hitting team with an exceptional pitching staff. The leading hitters for the 1909 St. Paul Gophers were Artie McDougall (.336), Eugene Milliner (.326), William Binga (.288), Sherman Barton (.276), Felix “Dick” Wallace (.272) and Bobby Marshall (.258). Julius London (21-3), Steel Arm Johnny Taylor (18-2) and Johnny Davis (10-4) comprised the starting rotation for the Gophers. The trio of London, Taylor and Davis were extremely effective the entire season and the best starting rotation in the history of the team. Their pitching statistics for the 1909 season were as follows:

Pitcher	Games Started	Complete Games	Won	Lost	Pct.	Runs/Game	Shutouts
Julius London	25	21	21	3	.875	2.57	8
Johnny Taylor	19	18	18	2	.900	1.83	5
Johnny Davis	15	13	10	4	.714	2.36	2

Dick Garrison (9-5), Archie Pate (1-4), Felix Wallace (1-0), Will McMurray (1-0), Walter Ball (0-1) and Tom “Lefty” Pangburn (0-0) also pitched for St. Paul during the 1909 season.

When all was said and done, Phillip Reid had put together the best roster in the history of the St. Paul Gophers. The 1909 St. Paul Gophers were a “championship” caliber team. Phillip Reid entered the 1909 season with an entirely new starting line-up, completely new pitching staff and high hopes for a very successful season. The Indianapolis Freeman newspaper published the following about the St. Paul Gophers:

“Reid and Williams deserve great credit for the good they have done our race and financing this great team throughout the Northwest in the three seasons past, opening and making a field for our colored players and teams in a vast territory practically unknown to Negro baseball fandom prior to 1907.”

“The brilliant and superb play of this clever team, their gentlemanly conduct on and off the field during the period above mentioned has won naught but words of praise and admiration from the press and public throughout the entire Northwest.”

Unfortunately for Daddy Reid he didn't get to start the season when he had originally hoped. The reason was that Reid didn't return home from his road trip with Rube Foster and the Leland Giants until May 2nd, so the 1909 season for the St. Paul Gophers didn't start until May 7th. To make matters even worse the team didn't conduct spring training which left most of the players deconditioned and several of his key players (mainly Johnny Davis, Eugene Milliner, Candy Jim Taylor and Steel Arm Johnny Taylor) had not yet arrived in St. Paul.

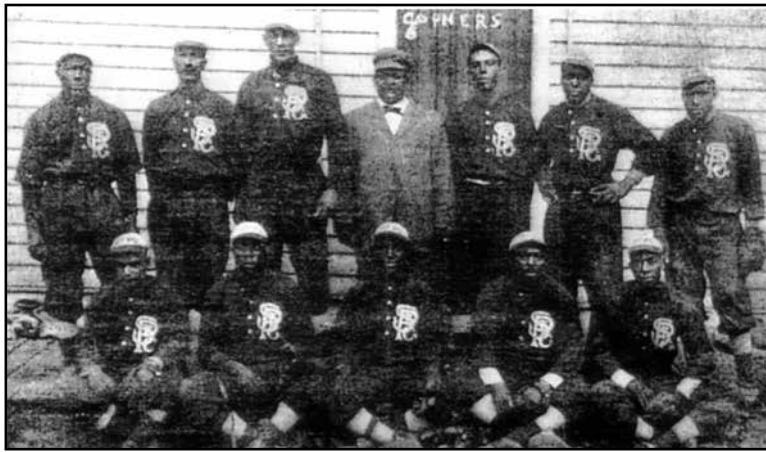
The official opening of the 1909 season for the Gophers took place with a three game series against the La Crosse Outcasts of the Minnesota-Wisconsin League. The Gophers went into the game with no spring training conditioning, no right fielder (Milliner had not yet arrived), no starting third baseman (Candy Jim Taylor was still in Birmingham) and a subpar pitching staff (Johnny Davis and Steel Arm Taylor had not yet joined the team). All of these factors plus nine errors in the first two games led to three straight losses to the La Crosse Outcasts. St. Paul went down by the scores of 8-3, 4-2 and 10-9.

Shortly after the La Crosse series, Eugene "Gabbie" Milliner joined the team and solved the problem of who was going to play right field. In addition, besides being an outstanding hitter, Milliner was considered perhaps the fastest man in all of baseball.

The Gophers next game after the La Crosse disaster took place on May 17th at the Grand Norwegian Celebration in Kenyon (MN). St. Paul won all three of their games and took the tournament title. After disposing of Kenyon, the St. Paul Gophers immediately left for Hibbing (MN) for a five game series which was played at Hardscrabble Park in Hibbing and was scheduled to begin on May 20th. Reid's team arrived in Hibbing with a pitching rotation of Julius London, Dick Garrison and Archie Pate. Johnny Davis and Steel Arm Johnny Taylor still had not joined the team. The highlight of the Hibbing series was game three in which St. Paul handed the Colts a 17-2 beating. The local newspaper in Hibbing called the loss the worst in the team history of the Hibbing Colts. The St. Paul Gophers won three of the five games they played in Hibbing. With their victory of the Hibbing Colts came the title of "Independent Champions of the Northwest" which included both black and white teams. The series did highlight two things to Phillip Reid. First the Gophers could hit. This was evidenced by the 38 runs they scored in five games against a top level opponent. Secondly, the pitching staff needed to be revamped because the trio of London, Garrison and Pate had given up 35 runs in the five game series.

In late May the Gophers posted three straight wins, one over Moose Lake and two over H.P. Conrads before leaving St. Paul to travel to the town of Fairbault (MN) for back to back games on May 30th and May 31st. What is important about this road trip is that George "Rat" Johnson left the team to join Long Prairie (MN) where he was going to be the team's player-manager. This left the Gophers short one outfielder.

From May 24th to June 10th, the St. Paul Gophers went 7-2-1 (.778) while playing with a depleted-make shift line-up. Phillip Reid finally got a break when Candy Jim Taylor (3B) and Steel Arm Johnny Taylor (P) joined the Gophers during the week June 10th. With Candy Jim playing third base, William Binga could move to the outfield. Johnny Taylor took Archie Pate's spot in the starting rotation and Pate was released. This was a major boost to St. Paul because Pate had been ineffective all season with a 1-4 won-loss record while allowing 6.43 runs per game. Steel Arm Johnny Taylor quickly became the most effective pitcher on the staff. Documented box scores show him going 18-2 while only allowing 1.83 runs per game for the 1909 season with St. Paul. Newspaper accounts credit Taylor with winning 37 games (28 wins with St. Paul and 9 wins for Birmingham) during the season.



St. Paul Gophers (1909)

(Standing left to right – **Steel Arm Johnny Taylor**, Sherman Barton, **Bobby Marshall**, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, **Johnny Davis**, Will McMurray and **Felix “Dick” Wallace**. Seated left to right – Artie McDougall, **Eugene Milliner**, **Candy Jim Taylor**, **William Binga** and **Julius London**)

When the Taylor brothers arrived in St. Paul they had an immediate impact on the team’s performance. Their first appearance in a Gophers uniform was on June 11th at Downtown Park when the Gophers took on the Hibbing Colts for a two game series. St. Paul won both games by the scores of 9-8 and 5-4.

Immediately after the Hibbing series, the Gophers left on a thirty-four (34) day barnstorming tour that took them through Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. St. Paul played 38 games during the tour. Steel Arm Johnny Taylor won his first 14 decisions and with his brother Candy Jim at third base, the team compiled a record of 28-4 (.875) on this 34 day road trip. One of the highlights of the tour was capturing the Old Settlers Day Celebration Baseball Tournament championship in Cogswell (ND). The Gophers beat Groton (SD) by a score of 4-2 on June 19th to capture the title. St. Paul also took home \$ 100 in prize money for winning the tournament. The only downside of the tour was the performance of Dick Garrison who had lost 5 of his last 7 starts. Garrison was released when the Gophers returned home and former St. Paul pitcher Johnny Davis was signed to take his place in the starting rotation.

By this time in the season the St. Paul Gophers were considered the “Colored Champions of the West.” Johnny Davis did not disappoint Reid’s faith in him and won his first start which was played on July 17th. Davis struck out six Mankato hitters in route to a 7-1 victory. The signing of Johnny Davis put in place the final piece of the puzzle that would lead the St. Paul Gophers to a “Colored World’s Championship.”

The St. Paul Gophers and Minneapolis Keystones renewed their rivalry on July 24th at Downtown Park. Johnny Davis took the mound for the Gophers and pitched them to a 5-2 win. Going into their game with the Gophers on July 24th the Minneapolis Keystones had a self-reported record of 56-5 (.918). The next day on July 25th the two teams moved to Nicollet Park in Minneapolis. Steel Arm Johnny Taylor pitched Reid’s Gophers to an 8-4 victory.

The day after beating the Keystones, Rube Foster and the Leland Giants arrived in St. Paul for a five game series against the St. Paul Gophers. The series was billed in the media as the “Colored World’s Championship.” The Appeal newspaper on July 10th printed the following:

“interest is at a fever heat over the coming championship series between the St. Paul Gophers and the Leland Giants of Chicago.”

“under the able management of the great Rube Foster, are unquestionably the greatest team of Afro-Americans ever organized.”

“The local team, for its part is a most classy lot, being especially strong in the batting.”

St. Paul Gophers Win "Colored World's Championship"

ST. PAUL GOPHERS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Leland Giants Bested for Three Games Out of Five—"Steel Arm" Johnnie Wins Deciding Game.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Picture two colored ball teams, such as the Leland Giants of Chicago, which played a five-game series last week beginning on Monday, far famed as the best in the land, and the St. Paul Gophers, the record-breakers of the Northwest, handing a ball game back and forth, one to the other, for eleven innings in the presence of a thousand or more colored fans and a goodly sprinkling of white ones, and then make your own book on just how much excitement, noise and fun there must have been on tap. Then add to this the winning of the game in the eleventh by a two-bagger, closely followed by a home run drive.

Two-base hits—Wright, 2; Payne, Moore, Johnson, Barton, Taylor. Home run—Marshall. Stolen bases—Payne, 2; Talbert, Moore. Double play—Ball to Talbert. Bases on balls—Off London, 4; off Taylor, 2; off Gatewood, 3; off Ball, 1. Hit by pitcher—Marshall. Struck out—By Gatewood, 2; by Bell, 1; by London, 3; by Taylor, 3. Passed ball—Johnson. Left on bases—Lelands, 8; Gophers, 10. Time—3:10. Umpire—Thompson. Attendance—1,000.

TUESDAY'S GAME.

Dougherty, the Leland Giants' crack southpaw, tied the Gophers in such a hard knot Tuesday afternoon that it took the Gophers nine innings to untie it, only doing so just in time to avoid a shutout by the narrowest margin. This new recruit whom the visitors picked up a short time ago at West Baden, Ind., held the locals down to four hits and struck out nine of them. It was as fine an exhibition of twirling as is seen, even in the big leagues.

Davis, who twirled for the Gophers, managed to keep the fair hits off his delivery scattered until the seventh inning, when the Lelands fell on him hard and with the aid of two errors, one by Davis and another by Marshall, came across with the first three runs of the game.

After that the visitors had no difficulty in finding the local man, and before the game was over were able to count up thirteen hits and eight runs, three more of the runs coming in the eighth and two in the ninth.

Gophers. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1—1 4 4
Lelands. 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 2—8 13 1
Batteries—Davis and Johnson; Dougherty and Struthers and Booker. Two-base hits—Hill, Payne, Moore, Booker. Stolen bases—Dougherty, Talbert, Hill, Taylor, Barton. Bases on balls—Off Dougherty, 2; off Davis, 3. Hit by pitcher—Millner. Struck out—By Dougherty, 9; by Davis, 2. Wild pitches—Dougherty, 1; Davis, 1. Time—2:00. Umpire—Thompson. Attendance—1,000.

WEDNESDAY'S GAME.

Johnnie Taylor, former habitat Alabama, present abode St. Paul, star twirler of the Gophers, stood in the box Wednesday afternoon and wound and unwound himself to such good effect during all of that period that only four scattered hits were gathered by the Lelands. Taylor would throw arms and legs about in bewildering fashion, suddenly knot up like a porcupine, and, then just as suddenly his left foot would dangle and shake in the air at the astonished batter as the ball flew past him.

Six strike outs were the accomplishment of the toe stunt and had he stuck to it, according to the sad philosophy of a chagrined Gopher, that ninth inning slaughter would never have come.

But in the ninth the toe tired and disgusted Taylor went down to defeat and disaster in a shower of five hits—one of them a home run—that came so fast and in such rapid succession that the bewildered Taylor just stood in the box and blinked his eyes as if he was waiting for the rain to blow over.

The game was one of the intensely interesting kind that the Gophers and Lelands usually put up and abounded with clever plays and skillful box work up to the last fatal inning. In the fifth Millner went back up against the left field fence for a hard drive and nabbed the ball within a foot of the little hillock.

In the sixth, Jimmie Taylor, brother of the agile Johnnie, made a great catch of a hot drive at short, nabbing the ball with one hand within a foot from the ground while going at full speed. It was one of the most remarkable catches ever seen at the park. Score:

R. H. E.
Gophers. 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—1 5 3
Lelands. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5—5 9 1
Batteries—Jos. Taylor and Johnson; Ball, Dougherty and Booker. Two-base hits—Green, Wallace. Home run—Wright. Stolen bases—Harris, 2; Wallace, McMurray. Hit by pitcher—Booker. Struck out—By Taylor, 6; by Ball, 5, in eight innings; by Dougherty, 2 in one inning. Passed ball—Johnson. Sacrifice hit—Johnson. Time—1:45. Umpire—Thompson. Attendance—\$00.

THURSDAY'S GAME.

The Gophers Thursday took the fourth game of the series with the Leland Giants of Chicago, heralded as the best colored team in the country. This gave the Gophers an even break with the visitors. The feature of the game was the pitching of Gatewood for the Lelands and London for the locals. The former allowed but three hits. Unfortunately these were all bunched in the first inning. London was only hit for four, but these were well scattered. In the seventh, when it looked as if the visitors were finding him, Davis took his place, and, with fair support, held out.

The Lelands scored one in the fourth on a base on balls, a single and an error, another in the sixth on a base on balls, a steal and a double, and one more in the eighth on a hit, an error and an outfield fly.

In the ninth it looked as if the visitors were going to repeat their rally of the day before. Talbert fled out, Moore got first when Millner dropped his long fly. Wright followed him when Taylor fumbled his grounder, but Green, the next up, fanned and Gatewood went out on a grounder to short. Score:

R. H. E.
Gophers. 2 0 2 0 0 0 0 0—4 3 5
Lelands. 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1—3 4 4
Batteries—London, Davis and McMurray; Gatewood and Booker. Two-base hits—Harris, McMurray. Three-base hit—Millner. Stolen bases—Booker, Harris. Double play—Hill to Moore. Bases on balls—Hill, 2, Booker. Struck out—By Gatewood, 4; by London, 4. Passed ball—Booker. Sacrifice hit—Taylor. Time—1:45.

FRIDAY'S GAME.

The Gophers, by defeating the Giants Friday, won the undisputed title of the world's champion colored baseball team.

The Gophers are the first colored team that ever won a series from the Lelands.

Dougherty, the big Chicago southpaw, had the Gophers at his mercy at all times during the game up to the eighth inning. Not a single hit was made off him in that time. Then three singles and a triple came in rapid succession, good for three runs and the game. Johnny Taylor pitched a good game, giving but eight hits. Score:

R. H. E.
Gophers. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3—3
Lelands. 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1—2
Two-base hits—Hill, Talbert. Three-base hit—Millner. Stolen bases—Payne, Gatewood. Double play—Dougherty, unassisted. Bases on balls—Hill, Payne, Wallace, Smith. Struck out—By Dougherty, 7; by Taylor, 4. Passed ball—Booker. Sacrifice hit—James Taylor. Time—1:45. Umpire—Thompson.

Freeman

Indianapolis, IN

08-07-09

BIG BASE BALL BATTLE

Between Leland Giants and Colored Gophers During Triennial Week.

What will doubtless be an interesting feature to lovers of base ball during the Triennial Meeting of the U. B. F. and S. M. T., week of July 26 to 31, will be the five-game series for the world's championship between the famous Colored Gophers and the present title holders, the crack Leland Giants of Chicago.

The Leland Giants, under the able management of the great Rube Foster are unquestionably the greatest team of Afro-Americans ever organized, and the press and public everywhere they have played are free to admit the fact. Walter Ball, Wm. Gatewood and Rube Foster constitute the greatest trio of Afro-American pitchers ever seen in one team.

The announcement by the Gopher management of the coming of the Leland Giants has aroused much interest both in the Twin Cities and the surrounding country, and the downtown park will doubtless be taxed to its capacity for these five big games.

Managers Reid and Williams, of the Gophers, have put together a team this year which is second to none, and the best they have financed in their three years' efforts. The latest addition to their team is the Taylor brothers, of the Birmingham club in the Southern Afro-American League. Their work since joining the Gophers has stamped them as finished artists and entitled to a high place in the firmament of base ball stars. The Gophers, who left on the 14th inst. for a five weeks' trip, is going at a merry clip, sweeping everything before them, 28 games won out of 32 played, is their record to date. And with the great trio of pitchers in Garrison, Taylor and London, backed up by brilliant and superb in and out fielders, and the greatest bunch of sluggers the team has ever had, there seems to be nothing but victory and success ahead for the Gophers.

On July 24-25 and August 1 the Gophers will meet their old rivals, the Keystone of Minneapolis. Games of July 24 and Aug. 1 in St. Paul and of July 25 in Nicollet Park, Minneapolis. Don't miss these games.

According to the article that appeared in The Appeal, several hundred Leland Giants fans accompanied the team from Chicago to attend the series. All five games were played at Downtown Park in St. Paul. The Gopher-Giants series was specifically scheduled for July 26th through July 30th to coincide with National Black Elks convention which was being held in the Twin Cities during this time. The series was hard fought. St. Paul took the first game in 11 innings by a score of 10-9 with a game winning homerun hit by Bobby Marshall over the right field wall. Steel Arm Johnny Taylor picked up the win. The Leland Giants came back to dominate games two and three which they won by the scores of 8-1 and 5-1. According to newspaper reports 2,500 fans attended the first two games of the series. Game three was a particularly bitter loss for the St. Paul Gophers because Steel Arm Johnny Taylor blew a shutout in the ninth inning when he gave up five runs to the Leland Giants and took the loss by a score of 5-1. After game three of the series, Rube Foster was extremely confident in winning the sizable side bet that he had made with his friend Phillip Reid. Foster was quoted in the news as saying "that his team could not lose the championship series." In game four Julius London and Johnny Davis combined to beat the Leland Giants by a score of 4-3. Going into game five, both teams had won two games each and game five came down to a winner take all. The Leland Giants sent Charles "Pat" Dougherty to the mound to face off against "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor. The Leland Giants scored the first run of the game in the third inning. Dougherty took a no-hitter into the eighth inning but unfortunately he gave up three singles and a triple that enabled the St. Paul Gophers to take a 3-1 lead. Taylor shut down the Leland hitters in the ninth inning to give the Gophers the series victory. A summary of the St. Paul Gophers-Leland Giants "championship series" is as follows:

The Appeal

St. Paul, MN
07-10-09

Leland Giants vs St. Paul Gopher World's Championship Series (1909)

Game	Date	Location	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher
1	July 26	Downtown Park	St. Paul	10-9	Johnny Taylor
2	July 27	Downtown Park	Leland Giants	8-1	Pat Dougherty
3	July 28	Downtown Park	Leland Giants	5-1	Walter Ball
4	July 29	Downtown Park	St. Paul	4-3	Julius London
5	July 30	Downtown Park	St. Paul	3-1	Johnny Taylor

With their victory over the Leland Giants, the St. Paul Gophers laid claim to the "Colored Championship of the World" and Daddy Reid won his sizeable side bet which was estimated to be \$ 500 from Rube Foster. In typical Rube Foster fashion, he downplayed his team's loss as merely an exhibition series of no consequence. In addition Foster reportedly suggested putting up a \$ 5,000 bet for what he termed a "true" championship to be played on neutral grounds with unbiased umpires. Phillip Reid didn't respond; he already held the title and had nothing to gain.

As a post script to the series, the St. Paul Gophers met Rube Foster and the Leland Giants one more time before the end of the season. The result was the same. The St. Paul Gophers prevailed as the victor. This game was played on August 24th in Buxton (IA) and the Gophers won by a score of 2-0.

The St. Paul Gophers opened the month of August with an 8-3 win over their arch rival the Minneapolis Keystones. The Gophers then played their next game on August 8th against Hartland (MN) and then the next day they faced off against Houston (MN). St. Paul won both games then left town on an extensive barnstorming tour of Iowa and Wisconsin. During the tour the Gophers took three games from the Buxton Wonders who were one of the best black teams in the West. The pitching rotation of Taylor, London and Davis each picked up a victory as the Gophers defeated the Wonders by the scores of 5-0, 13-2 and 4-2.



Buxton Wonders
Buxton, IA

After leaving Buxton, the Gophers headed back north to Preston (MN) for their annual appearance at the Fillmore County Fair Baseball Tournament. Their first game was supposed to be on September 2nd against the Minneapolis Keystones but it was a rain out. The next day the Gophers played Harmony for the county fair tournament championship. In the championship game Harmony brought in former PCL pitcher Melvin Blehrud to pitch who proved to be a difficult adversary. Johnny Davis and Julius London combined for a 3-2 win. By the time the Gophers had returned to St. Paul, they had had compiled a record of 28-4 (.875) on their latest barnstorming tour.

On September 20th and 21st the St. Paul Gophers took on the Minneapolis Keystone to settle the dispute of which team should be considered the “Colored Champions of Minneapolis-St. Paul.” Both games were to be played at Downtown Park. Steel Arm Johnny Taylor easily defeated the Keystones by a score of 9-1. The second game was cancelled due to bad weather. With their victory in the first game the St. Paul Gophers added another title to their resume for the 1909 season.

PHIL REED'S TEAM CHAMPIONS.

One of the proudest baseball managers and owners in the world today is Phil Reed of St. Paul. He wears a smile on his face that won't come off. The St. Paul Gophers took the long end of the series of five games with the Leland Giants of Chicago, and are now the champion colored baseball team of the world. The two teams played some of the fastest ball ever seen in this part of the country and all the fans, both white and colored, were well pleased. Last Saturday the Gophers went to Lindstrum and defeated the team of that city by the score of 19 to 1. Sunday the Gophers played the Minneapolis Keystones before a good size crowd. Score:

	R.	H.	E.
Gophers	0	0	0
Keystones	1	0	0
Batteries—McMurray and Davis; Shafer and Jackson.			

The Freeman

Indianapolis, IN
08-07-09

The St. Paul Gophers closed out their 1909 season in St. Paul on September 26th with a game against a local all-star team at Lexington Park. Over 1,200 fans showed up at Lexington Park to witness Steel Arm Taylor pitch a complete game, strike out seven all stars and scatter five hits in a 5-2 win for the Gophers. According to local newspapers this was Johnny Taylor's 37th win of the season (28 with the Gophers). Eugene Milliner led the team offensively against the all-stars by banging out four hits.

With a makeshift roster the St. Paul Gophers also played two games in the Chicago area in October. On October 3rd the Gophers battled the Artesians of the Chicago City League to a 6-6 tie over 10 innings. Then on October 10th Elgin (IL) demolished St. Paul with Walter Ball pitching for the Gophers. Ball was totally overwhelmed by the Elgin squad and lost the game by a score of 15-7.

Research credits the St. Paul Gophers posted a won-loss record of 88-20 (.815) and they were the "Colored World's Champions" for the 1909 season.

St. Paul Gophers Play Their Final Season

Even though the St. Paul Gophers had met with tremendous success on the playing field during their first three years, the financial strain of owning and operating a professional baseball team had been significant on Phillip Reid. Entering the 1910 season there was a question as to whether or not Daddy Reid would field a team for the upcoming baseball season. Initially Reid decided not to field a team for the 1910 season so that he could spend the summer traveling in Europe. There was such a public uproar that five leading St. Paul businessmen came forward and offered to back the team. In addition 148 requests had come into the Gophers' office from teams wanting to schedule games with the St. Paul Gophers. When all was said and done Phillip Reid and Irving Williams (club secretary) decided to field a St. Paul Gophers team for another season.



Sherman Barton
St. Paul Gophers

The first order of business for Reid and Williams was to put together a roster. The major problem facing Reid was that most of his players from his 1909 championship team had already signed with other teams because they thought that Daddy Reid wasn't going to field a squad for the 1910 season. Bobby Marshall, Candy Jim Taylor and Felix "Dick" Wallace signed with Frank Leland's Chicago Giants. Bobby Marshall and Candy Jim Taylor would leave the Chicago Giants and return to the St. Paul Gophers. Will McMurray had been signed by the St. Louis Giants as their team's starting catcher and team captain. Star players Eugene Milliner signed with the Kansas City Royal Giants and Julius London returned to the Texas Colored League to play with the Dallas Giants.

The only players from the 1909 team who were immediately available were Sherman Barton, William Binga, Johnny Davis, Artie McDougall and Jesse Schaeffer. Reid needed to sign more top quality players to round out his starting line-up. Daddy Reid gave this assignment to Sherman Barton who had been an integral part of the team since their first season.

Barton signed three players who were all from the Pittsburgh (PA) area and whom had played the 1909 season with the Buxton Wonders. These three players all whom became starters for the Gophers were George “Mule” Armstrong (C), George Bowman (2B) and Tom “Lefty” Pangburn (P). The trio arrived in St. Paul on April 28th.



St. Paul Gophers (1910)

(Standing left to right – Artie McDougall, George Bowman, Lefty Pangburn, **Candy Jim Taylor**, **William Binga**, George “Mule” Armstrong, **Johnny Davis**, **Sherman Barton**, Wesley, (no first name) Ford and **Bobby Marshall**)

The starting line-up for the 1910 St. Paul Gophers for the majority of the season was:

St. Paul Gophers (1910)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Bobby Marshall	OF	Sherman Barton
2B	George Bowman	OF	William Binga
SS	Artie “Rabbit” McDougall	OF	Tom Pangburn
3B	Candy Jim Taylor	OF	Harry Brown
C	George “Mule” Armstrong	P	Johnny Davis
		P	Tom “Lefty” Pangburn
		P	Louis “Dicta” Johnson

William Binga (.303), Tom Pangburn (.294), George Armstrong (.287), Candy Jim Taylor (.272) and Bobby Marshall (.263) led the team in hitting during the 1910 season. During the season Reid carried a three man starting rotation. Johnny Davis (21-14), Tom Pangburn (21-8) and Louis “Dicta” Johnson (19-7) anchored the pitching staff.

During the season both William Binga and Candy Jim Taylor were captains of the Gophers. Lexington Park was the home field of the St. Paul Gophers for the 1910 season.

Before the start of the season the Indianapolis Freeman wrote the following in their preseason profile of the Gophers:

“established themselves, their race and the city a reputation and record never to be equaled.”

CHAMPION GOPHERS TO PLAY THIS SEASON.

SPECIAL TO THE FREEMAN.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 19.—Managers, fans, players and all lovers of baseball will doubtless welcome the news that Messrs. Philip E. Reid and Irving Williams of St. Paul, Minn., have again decided to continue the famous colored Gopher Baseball Club at St. Paul, Minn., a team that startled the country last season with its grand achievements and won, through its marvelous playing, the title to the Negro Champions from the Leland Giants of Chicago, taking three of the five games played. Most of last season's team has been signed and line are out for several new stars, that, if secured, will doubtless help the team to maintain its lofty standing in the baseball world.

Ever since the announcement a few weeks ago that the Colored Gopher Baseball team would be discontinued, owing to the fact that Mr. Philip E. Reid, its owner, will spend the summer in Europe, baseball fandom of the Twin Cities and the great Northwest has been up in arms clamoring for the maintenance of this famous organization, and the management through these urgent appeals has decided to again enter the field, and Mr. Irving Williams, who so ably handled the team the past three seasons, will again guide its destinies.

Managers desiring games, and competent players desiring positions, please address Colored Gopher Baseball Club, 40 East 3rd St., St. Paul, Minn.

The Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
03-26-10

According to the Indianapolis Freeman, the St. Paul Gophers were “the greatest team that the great Northwest had ever seen.”

Before the start of the season, Phillip Reid announced that the team would play approximately 110 games during the 1910 season. The St. Paul Gophers opened their season on May 1st with a game at Lexington Park against Phil Dellar's All Stars. The “All Stars” were led by the pitching of Dellar and the hitting of Bobby Marshall who was the first great black slugger of Minnesota. Aided by seven stolen bases (including three by Sherman Barton) and the pitching of Johnny Davis and Lefty Pangburn, the Gophers cruised to a 5-1 victory before the 2,500 fans who attended the game.



Phil Dellar's All Stars

(Bobby Williams- front row first on left)

The day after defeating the Dellar All Stars, the Gophers left on a road trip that would first take them to Eau Claire and La Crosse of the Minnesota-Wisconsin League and then continue on through South Dakota. St. Paul lost their first two games against the Eau Claire Commissioners and won the third game in 10 innings by a score of 6-5. Newcomer Tom “Lefty” Pangburn pitched a complete game for the Gophers to pick up the win in the third game. The next stop for St. Paul was La Crosse where they split the two games they played with the La Crosse Outcats. Pangburn picked up his third victory of the season in La Crosse. The remainder of May was spent touring in Minnesota and South Dakota. The Gophers went 11-4 (.733) on the road trip that ended with a six game winning streak.

On June 1st the St. Paul Gophers were in Decorah (IA) where they beat the Caldonia team by a score of 12-5 to keep their winning streak alive. While the Gophers were on the road, Phil Reid traveled to Chicago to recruit new players and hopefully book a “championship series” with Frank Leland's Chicago Giants. When the St. Paul Gophers returned home to play a two game series with H.P. Conrads at Downtown Park and Lexington Park, the team was surprised to see that Reid had brought back from Chicago with him Bobby Marshall (1B) and Candy Jim Taylor (3B) both of whom he had signed away from Leland's Chicago Giants. To make room on the roster for Bobby Marshall, Reid released first baseman George Board who was hitting .071 for the season. With Johnny Davis on the mound St. Paul beat Conrads 5-3 in the first game and then Tom Pangburn handed the Conrads a second loss in the second game by a score of 6-5.

After beating Waseca by a score of 10-8 on June 8th the Gophers left St. Paul and headed out on a five week barnstorming tour of South Dakota and North Dakota. The Gophers kept on winning and extended their winning streak to 18 games before tasting defeat on June 19th at the hands of Minot (SD). St. Paul lost the game by a score of 10-6. The highlight of the Dakotas barnstorming tour occurred on June 30th when Johnny Davis pitched a no-hitter against Hope (ND). Davis would have had a perfect game if it had not been for one error. St. Paul won the game by a score of 9-0.

The St. Paul Gophers returned to Minnesota for a game against Crookston (MN) on July 11th. The game ended in a 1-1 tie. The next day the Gophers beat Crookston by a score of 10-2. On July 15th the Gophers arrived in Hibbing to play the Colts who had been a long time rival and always were a formidable opponent. St. Paul took four of the five games they played against the Hibbing Colts.

BON VOYAGE!

Mr. Phil Reid, the genial and well known senior member of the firm of Reid & Hirshfield, 40 E. Third street, leaves today for Chicago, accompanied by his son. Mr. Reid will leave Chicago Sunday for New York, where he will join his fiancée, Miss Belle Davis, the famous actress, who is well and favorably known on both sides of the "Big Pond," and they will sail for Europe on Wednesday, the 27th. Dame Rumor has been quite busy with this couple for some time, some folks say they are already married, others that they will marry before sailing, and others that the event will occur in Europe but it's all a mystery which no one but the interested parties themselves know. However they will take with them the best wishes of a large number of friends and time will tell the facts in the case. Mr. Reid will remain abroad until some time in September.

Earlier in the season during a visit to Chicago, Daddy Reid had worked out a deal to play a "championship series" against Frank Leland's Chicago Giants. Before the start of the "championship series" with the Giants, Phillip Reid turned the day-to-day operation of the team to Irving Williams who had been Reid's assistant and club secretary since Reid formed the team in 1907. The answer to why Reid was backing away from running the team was very simple, Phillip Reid was getting married and traveling to Europe. Reid's bride was Belle Davis who was considered the Queen of the Ragtime Singers. The couple got married in Chicago and set sail on July 27th for their honeymoon in Europe.

From box scores that have been located the St. Paul Gophers had a won-loss record of 51-13 (.797) when Reid turned over the operation of the team to Irving Williams. The Appeal newspaper in a feature story that ran on July 16th credits the St. Paul Gophers with a record of 62-6 (.912) at the mid-season mark. Even though the numbers don't match up, it is clearly evident that the St. Paul Gophers were having an excellent season under the leadership of Daddy Reid.

The Appeal

St. Paul, MN

06-23-10

Irving Williams' first task in running the St. Paul Gophers was defending their "Colored World's Championship" title. St. Paul's challenger was the Chicago Giants. Frank Leland's Chicago Giants arrived in St. Paul in late July to play a five game "championship series" against the St. Paul Gophers. Game one was played on July 24th with almost 4,500 fans showing up at Lexington Park to see the Giants take on the Gophers. The St. Paul Gophers did not disappoint their fans. With Louis "Dicta" Johnson pitching the Gophers came away with a 4-3 win in 10 innings. Unfortunately for Williams and the Gophers, Chicago won the next four games and took the "championship title" back to Chicago. The Twin Cities African American newspaper The Appeal summed up the series and the Chicago Giants victory as follows:

"They came, they played, they conquered."

St. Paul Colored Gophers vs Leland's Chicago Giants AT LEXINGTON PARK July 24-25-26-27-28

What will unquestionably prove to be the most important event staged in semi-professional base ball this season, to fans and lovers of the great national game, in and around the Twin Cities will be the series between the champion Colored Gophers of St. Paul and Frank Leland's famous Chicago Giants, for the world's championship.

The games will be played at Lexington Park, starting Sunday, July 24, with four days to follow, viz.: July 25-26-27-28.

Last season when these teams met the Gophers, after five fierce struggles, captured three out of the five

games played. In what critics and newspaper experts declared was an exhibition of some of the fastest and bravest playing of the national game ever seen in St. Paul.

With a majority of last season's line up and several new stars added, the Gophers still maintain one of the fastest semi-professional clubs in the country, and the boys promise to make a gallant stand to retain their title.

Out of 68 games played thus far this season 61 have been victories.

With "Lefty" Pangburn, Johnny Davis and Louis Johnson, the Gophers can boast of one of the best pitching

stuffs in the country. Bobby Marshall, Mel Dugal, Bowman and Taylor make up the infield; Barton, Binga and Wesley the outfield.

Special street car service will be furnished with preparations for handling one of the largest crowds ever assembled at Lexington Park on the opening day, Sunday, July 24.

The Chicago Giants is a member of the Chicago City League and has in its line up: "Rat" Johnson, "Little" Wallace and "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor, prominent players in last season's champion Gopher team.

Lovers of base ball that is base ball don't want to miss these games.

Chicago Giants vs St. Paul Gophers
Colored World's Championship Series

The Appeal
St. Paul, MN
07-23-10

A summary of the 1910 championship series between the Chicago Giants and the St. Paul Gophers is as follows.

Chicago Giants vs St. Paul Gopher World's Championship Series (1910)

Game	Date	Location	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher
1	July 24 th	Lexington Park	St. Paul	4-3	Dicta Johnson
2	July 25 th	Lexington Park	Chicago	5-1	Joe Williams
3	July 26 th	Lexington Park	Chicago	4-1	Walter Ball
4	July 27 th	Lexington Park	Chicago	8-5	Joe Williams
5	July 28 th	Lexington Park	Chicago	6-1	Johnny Taylor

After a dismal showing against the Chicago Giants at Lexington Park, the Gophers left town for a road trip first to Mankato (MN) and then to Wisconsin. In their first game in Mankato they lost by a score of 4-3. Coupled with their four losses to the Chicago Giants and a loss to Mankato this gave them a five game losing streak which was their longest of the season. The team rebounded the next day with a convincing 12-5 win over Mankato. The St. Paul Gophers then went 9-1 (.900) on the rest of their barnstorming tour through Wisconsin. The most devastating loss for St. Paul during the month of August was not to another team, but a personnel loss when William Binga left the team to play the remainder of the season with the Oklahoma Giants and the Kansas City Royal Giants.

After their tour of Wisconsin the St. Paul Gophers picked up five straight wins before heading to Hibbing for another series with the Colts. This was their second trip of the 1910 season to the Iron Range and it proved to be a disaster. In twelve (12) games against Hibbing, Chisolm and Virginia, the Gophers could muster only three wins. This was the worst road trip in the history of the team.

Irving Williams' response to the team's poor performance was to release second baseman George Bowman who had been hitting poorly the entire season. A second decision that Williams implemented was to reduce the roster to just nine players. Williams' plan was to have pitchers play right field and left field on days that they weren't pitching.



Irving Williams
St. Paul Gophers
Manager
1910

After leaving the Iron Range Irving Williams threatened to disband the team if they didn't win their next game which was in Spooner (WI). Unfortunately, the St. Paul Gophers suffered an 11-6 humiliating loss. According to an article that appeared in the Spooner Advocate on September 2nd, the rationale given for disbanding the team was to prevent "the reputation of the championship colored team of Minnesota from receiving any serious setback." There most likely was also a financial consideration behind Williams' threat of shutting down the team. The Gophers had been playing a significant number of games on a 60/40 basis and they had been losing which had a significant negative financial impact on the team. Irving Williams did not follow through on his threat, but things didn't get a lot better for the Gophers on the playing field or financially at the box office.

In early September the St. Paul Gophers team underwent several changes. Candy Jim Taylor left St. Paul to join his brother, C.I. Taylor's team, the West Baden Sprudels. Artie McDougall also left for parts unknown. With the loss of two key players, Williams resigned George Bowman who had earlier been released and Eugene Milliner returned from Kansas City to play left field. Just when things seemed to be getting a little bit better, Sherman Barton who had been with the team from the very beginning left the Gophers. The rumors were that Barton had been very disappointed and had adamantly disagreed with how Irving Williams was running the ball club.

Amongst all the shakeups in the roster, the St. Paul Gophers had a chance to redeem their championship series loss to the Chicago Giants when the two teams met again for a three game series that started on September 14th in Preston (MN). The result was the same for the Gophers; they lost all three games by the scores of 3-2, 6-5 and 6-0. Then to make matters even worse, after splitting a two game series with Shakopee on September 17th and 18th Thomas "Lefty" Pangburn, George "Mule" Armstrong, George Bowman, Harry Brown and Louis "Dicta" Johnson all called it quits for the 1910 season. The St. Paul Gophers finished the season with fill-in players.

The Gophers closed out their season on October 2nd against the North St. Paul Thoenes. Charles Jackson, who only pitched in one game for the Gophers during the season, went the 10 innings for a 3-1 victory for the Gophers. Under the management of Irving Williams, the St. Paul Gophers finished the 1910 season with at best a lack luster performance.

According to Irving Williams the St. Paul Gophers finished the 1910 season with a won-loss record of 104-27 (.794). In a newspaper interview with The Appeal, Irving Williams was quoted as saying that the St. Paul Gophers had just finished the "greatest" season in the team's history. Evidently Irving Williams had a different perspective than anyone else. After a humiliating loss to the Chicago Giants in their "championship series" the St. Paul Gophers were a mediocre team at best for the rest of the season under Williams' leadership.

Current research does not support Williams' contention that the team went 104-27 (.794). Current research has uncovered 119 games played by the St. Paul Gophers during the 1910 season. In these 119 games the Gophers went 82-37 (.689). In addition when Phillip Reid was running the team they had a record of 52-13 (.800) before he turned the team over to Irving Williams. Current research credits Williams with a disappointing record of 30-24 (.556).

Daddy Reid Returns to St. Paul

Phillip and Belle Reid had left Chicago in July of 1910 for their European honeymoon. Their honeymoon had taken them through Germany, France and Italy. After their honeymoon, Phil did not return to St. Paul until November of 1910. Belle did not return with Phil to the United States because she had a concert engagement that had been previously booked in Vienna, Austria. Daddy Reid's return to St. Paul was delayed because on his way back from Europe he stopped off in Brooklyn, New York to attend an automobile race between his good friend and heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson and Barney Oldfield who was considered at the time as the "World Champion Automobilist."

St. Paul Gophers Fade into the Sunset

When the 1910 season ended, Irving Williams was very emphatic and enthusiastic that the St. Paul Gophers would field an even stronger team for the 1911 baseball season. Williams went on to pledge that the Gophers would regain their "Colored World's Championship" before the end of the 1911 season.

In mid-February the Twin City Star newspaper reported that it was highly questionable whether or not Reid would field a team for the upcoming season. This did not come as a surprise to anyone especially the ball players because Daddy Reid waited until the last minute to field a roster for the 1910 season and he missed the entire second half of the season. To the general public Phil Reid came off as very ambivalent about his future in professional baseball.

Long term Minnesotan sportsman, Bobby Marshall, did not share Reid's lack of enthusiasm. Through Marshall's leadership new ownership was found to back a team. The new owner was George Shull who was a very successful black businessman in Minneapolis. Marshall and Shull named their new team the "Twin City Gophers." Shull was the financial backer and owner of the team while Marshall was the team's player/manager and team captain. Both were very quick to point out that their new team had nothing whatsoever to do with Phillip Reid's St. Paul Gophers.

Marshall was able to sign numerous star players from the old St. Paul Gophers. Among those players that were signed by the Twin City Gophers were George "Mule" Armstrong (C), William Binga (OF), Harry Brown (3B), Johnny Davis (P), Clarence "Dude" Lytle (P), Artie McDougall (2B), Tom "Lefty" Pangburn (P) and Jesse Schaeffer (C). At best the 1911 Twin City Gophers were only a mediocre team. Current research credits them with a won-loss record of 47-45-2 (.510). The team lasted only one season and folded in September of 1911.



Bobby Marshall

Life after Gopher Baseball

Mr. Phil Reid, of the firm of Reid & Hirschfield, No. 40 East third Street, familiarly known as "Daddy," is in Chicago looking after his latest venture, "The St. Paul Inn," which he, in conjunction with Raleigh Thompson, has established at 3212 State Street. It is an up-to-date place in every particular and is destined to become one of the most popular pleasure resorts in the Windy City.

Being out of baseball gave Phillip Reid more time to concentrate on his other business interests. In the fall of 1911 Phil Reid and Raleigh W. Thompson opened a new saloon at 3212 State Street in Chicago (IL). They called their new establishment the St. Paul Inn.

The Appeal
St. Paul, MN
10-28-11

"DADDY" REID DEAD.

A Well Known Business Man Dies Suddenly, Wednesday.

The many friends of Mr. Phil E. Reid, familiarly known as "Daddy," were shocked on last Wednesday to learn that he had died early that morning of acute gastritis, at his rooms, 46 E. Third street. There is, perhaps, no man in the city who was more widely known and generally liked than the deceased. For many years he has been the member of the firm of Reid & Hirschfeld, 40 N. Third street. A short time ago he became the sole owner. Mr. Hirschfeld retiring from the firm.

He was a member of Pioneer Lodge F. and A. M., and had taken the thirty-third or highest degree. His remains will lie in state at Lyle's undertaking establishment today and tomorrow.

The Masonic funeral services will be held for him at Pioneer Lodge room at midnight tomorrow night, to which, of course, only Masons will be admitted.

Funeral services will be held at Lyle's Monday at 3:00 p. m., and Pilgrim Baptist church at 2:30 p. m. Rev. E. H. McDonald will officiate, assisted by Rev. W. D. Carter.

He died intestate, and Messrs A. D. Anderson and J. J. Hirschfeld have been appointed special administrators. W. T. Francis, Esq., is attorney for the administrators.

Numerous telegrams and letters of condolence have been received, among which is a cablegram from "Miss Belle Davis," the famous actress, who was in London and left Wednesday evening for the United States and will arrive in the United States next week. Others are also expected.

The Appeal

10-19-12

Reid left a sizeable estate when he passed away. After his death there were numerous claims for Reid's fortune. Belle Davis who presented herself as his common law wife, an alleged son, an alleged daughter and two alleged cousins made claims. It took over three years of legal action and several court battles to settle the matter. In January of 1915 a jury decided that Phillip Reid's estate should go to his son Eddie Reid. However, the court battle didn't end there. The estate was finally settled in June of 1915 when the courts handed over Reid's estate to Shelly Williams who was Reid's grand nephew and at the time was incarcerated in an Arkansas penitentiary.

With the passing of Phillip Reid Minnesota lost a great baseball man, businessman and civic leader.

Passing of a Legend

In early March of 1912 Daddy Reid suffered from what was later diagnosed as a heart attack. Reid never did fully recover from the episode and his health continued to deteriorate. Once he had travelled the world living the high life and now he was withering away. By October of 1912 Daddy Reid was virtually confined to his bedroom which was located above the St. Paul Inn.

Phillip Edward "Daddy" Reid passed away from what was termed acute gastritis in the early morning hours of October 16, 1912. Reid lay in state at the Thomas Lyles Funeral Chapel for two days before his funeral on October 21st at the Pilgrim Baptist Church. Nearly 1,000 people crowded into the church sanctuary for the service. John J. Hirschfeld, Reid's longtime friend and business partner, presided over the service and also served as the chief executor of his estate. The funeral procession included a military brass band and 25 carriages. Reid's body was laid to rest at the Oakland Cemetery.

On October 26th the Twin City Star newspaper published the following after Reid's funeral.

"Everybody loved Phil Reid. He had many friends because it was his ambition to make them. None knew him but to love him and he was paid the highest respect by that vast assemblage of mourners, who proved by their presence that he was a man."

Phil's wife Belle was in London when she got the news of his passing. She left Liverpool on October 19th and arrived in St. Paul ten days later. With Belle and several close friends in attendance a service was held to intern his casket into his burial vault.

The Phil Reid will case has been on trial in the District Court several days this week and the jury decided that the \$14,000 estate, left by the late Phil Reid, should revert to his son, Eddie Reid, the defendant in the case.

The Appeal

01-09-15

Assessing Phillip Reid's Baseball Career

- Under the ownership of Phillip “Daddy” Reid the St. Paul Gophers were a **winning baseball team**. Their won-loss record under Reid’s leadership was as follows:

St. Paul Gophers (1907-1910)

Year	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1907	90	16	1	.849
1908	97	26	1	.789
1909	88	20	0	.815
1910	105	27	0	.795
Total	380	89	2	.810

The St. Paul Gophers also claimed the following championships under Phillip Reid.

Year	Championship
1907	Colored Champions of the Twin Cities
1907	Colored Champions of Minnesota
1908	Colored Champions of Minneapolis-St. Paul
1908	Colored Champions of the North
1908	Colored Champions of Minnesota
1909	Independent Champions of the Northwest (both black & white teams)
1909	Colored Champions of the West
1909	Colored Champions of Minnesota
1909	Colored World's Champions
1909	Colored Champions of Minneapolis-St. Paul

In addition the team won numerous baseball tournament titles. Some of them were:

Year	Championship
1907	Lester Prairie Baseball Tournament
1907	Watertown Baseball Tournament
1907	Zumbrota Street Fair Baseball Tournament
1907	Fillmore County Fair Baseball Tournament
1908	Blue Earth County Fair Baseball Tournament
1908	Watertown Baseball Tournament
1909	Grand Norwegian Celebration Baseball Tournament
1909	Old Settlers Day Celebration Baseball Tournament
1909	Fillmore County Fair Baseball Tournament

- From their **very first year of operation, the St. Paul Gophers were one of the top black ball clubs in the country**.
- Of the hundreds of owners of black professional teams during the history of black baseball in America, Phillip Reid’s St. Paul Gophers had the **highest winning percentage of all-time**.
- Even though a large percentage of their opponents were lower level teams and town teams, **when the Gophers played top level competition they usually won**. The St. Paul Gophers played “white” Minor League ball clubs on a regular basis. They also claimed a “Colored World’s Championship” title in 1909.
- As impressive as the Gophers record was every season, the **team seemed to falter at the end of the season**. Part of their challenge was a pitching rotation that generally included only two pitchers. In addition it was not uncommon for Reid to generally carry a roster of only 10-13 players and by the end of the season his team was just flat worn out. During

St. Paul Gophers - "Kings of Independent Baseball"

During their four short year career from 1907 through 1910, Phillip "Daddy" Reid's St. Paul Gophers were never part of any organized "league." They played an independent barnstorming schedule throughout their entire career. The St. Paul Gophers did play a significant number of home games in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and did develop a significant fan base in the Twin Cities. Both black and white fans came out to see the Gophers play especially when they were playing a "championship" game or a game against one of their arch rivals like the Hibbing Colts or Minneapolis Keystones. It was also not unusual for fans to follow the Gophers on their road trip games.

The poster below is from a newspaper ad that appeared in The Appeal (St. Paul's leading black newspaper) on August 17, 1907 for a road trip to Jordan, Minnesota. Several hundred Gopher fans piled on the excursion train for the picnic, celebration and baseball game. The game was played on August 22, 1907 and the fans saw Clarence "Dude" Lytle pitch St. Paul to a 4-2 victory.

GRAND



EXCURSION AND PICNIC

—AT—

JORDAN, MINNESOTA

ON MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. LOUIS RAILWAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND

THE LAST RAILROAD PICNIC OF THE SEASON!

C. H. HINDS, the General Manager is the only man who has succeeded in getting up a Railroad Excursion.

Base Ball, Dancing, Cake Walk, for Cash Prizes

Music by Hagie and Varner's Brass

Tickets: Adults 75c - Children 50c

Trains leave St. Paul Union Station, 9:00 a. m. and 12:30 p. m.
Trains leave Minneapolis, M. & St. L. Depot, 9:40 a. m. and 1:15 p. m.
Returning at 5:35 and 9:30 p. m.

Committee of Arrangements.
C. H. Hinds, Herbert Parker, William Briggs.

GREAT SPECIAL ATTRACTION
Base Ball ST. PAUL COLORED GOPHERS vs JORDAN Picked Nine

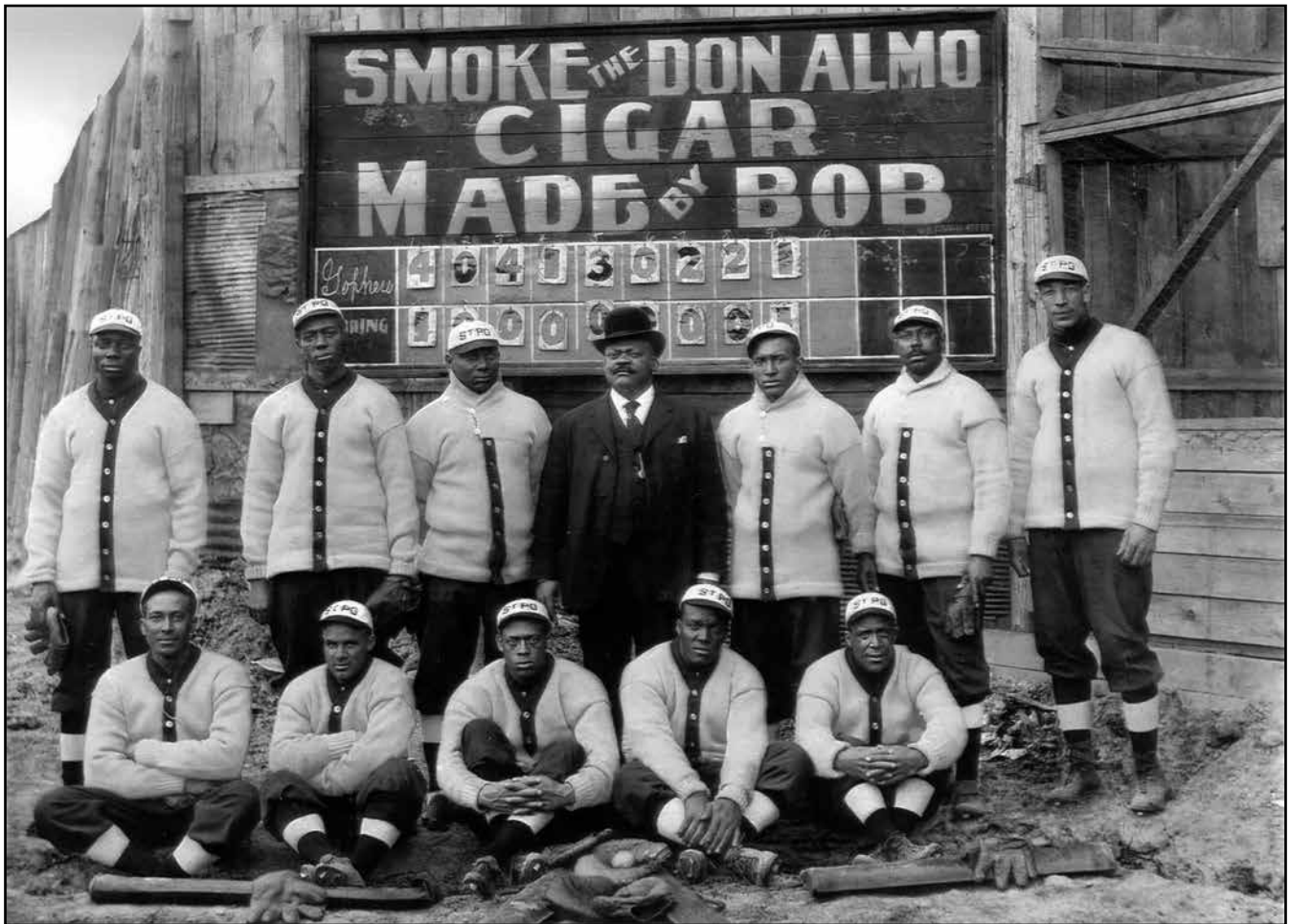
the four years that he owned and operated the Gophers, the team had a cumulative record of 14-24-2 (.368) from 1907-1910 over the last three to four weeks of the season.

- Phillip Reid was **excellent at scouting talent and signing top level ball players**. Some of the star players who played for Reid's St. Paul Gophers were: Walter Ball (P), Sherman Barton (OF), William Binga (3B/OF), Johnny Davis (P), Bill Gatewood (P), Will Horn (P), George "Rat" Johnson (C), Louis "Dicta" Johnson (P), Willis Jones (OF), Julius London (P), Clarence "Dude" Lytle (P), Bobby Marshall (1B), Artie McDougall (SS), Eugene Milliner (OF), Thomas "Lefty" Pangburn (P), Candy Jim Taylor (3B), Steel Arm Johnny Taylor (P) and Felix "Dick" Wallace (2B/SS).
- The **manager in the dugout for the St. Paul Gophers was not always consistent**. Phillip Reid is consistently listed as the manager of record, but he did not always go on all of the road trips. Irving Williams, the team's club secretary, was generally always on the road with the team, but his responsibilities were purely administrative (making travel arrangements, hotel reservations, collecting box office receipts, paying the players, etc.). When Reid did not accompany the team, the responsibility for the on field decisions and player issues was left up to the team captain. In Reid's system the team captain functioned more like a manager. Team captains for the St. Paul Gophers over the team's history were as follows:

Year	Team Captain (s)
1907	Walter Ball, James Smith and George Taylor
1908	George "Rat" Johnson
1909	Felix "Dick" Wallace
1910	William Binga and Candy Jim Taylor

- He was not only a **great baseball man**, but he was also a **highly successful businessman and civic leader**.
- Reid was a **self-made man**. He worked his way up from being a lowly waiter to owning several very successful businesses which made him one of the richest African Americans in the Northwest.
- Phillip "Daddy" Reid was a **bigger than life character**. He counted as his close friends celebrities like baseball great Andrew "Rube" Foster and World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Jack Johnson. He was married to Belle Davis who was an international celebrity and star performer. Reid loved fine liquor, good cigars, gambling and sports. In addition he did things that were highly uncommon especially for an African-American for his day like vacationing in Europe.
- Daddy Reid **does not appear to be totally dedicated to baseball** like an Andrew "Rube" Foster or C.I. Taylor. Besides the St. Paul Gophers Reid had significant business interests in the Twin Cities, took a very active role in civic affairs and loved to live the "fast" life. An excellent example of Reid's lack of commitment to the team occurred in 1910 when he turned over the management of the Gophers to Irving Williams for the second half of the season. Daddy Reid travelled to Europe with his new bride during this period of time. The team suffered without Reid's leadership. During the first half of the season with Reid at the helm the St. Paul Gophers went 81-37 (.681) and when Williams took over management of the team St. Paul had a disappointing record of 30-24 (.556).
- It is important to note that he had a **very short career in professional baseball**. The St. Paul Gophers were the only baseball team with which Reid was ever associated and they only played four short years from 1907 through 1910.
- Phil Reid, however, is credited with **bringing "big time" professional baseball to Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain states**.

St. Paul Gophers
 “Colored World’s Champions”



St. Paul Gophers (1909)
 Hardscrabble Park in Hibbing (MN)

(Standing left to right – **Eugene Milliner**, Julius London, George “Rat” Johnson, **Phillip “Daddy” Reid**, Felix “Dick” Wallace, **William Binga** and **Robert “Bobby” Marshall**. Front row left to right – **Sherman “Bucky” Barton**, Artie McDougall, Archie Pate, William McMurray and Dick Garrison)