

Forgotten Heroes:

James Allen “Candy Jim” Taylor



by
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The Taylors – Baseball a Family Business

The four Taylor brothers, Charles Isham, John Boyce, James Allen and Benjamin Harrison, helped forge the early years of Negro League baseball. No family, not even the Bankhead's (Sam, Dan, Fred, Joe and Garnett), had a greater impact on Negro League baseball than the Taylor family.

Charles Isham “C.I.” Taylor was born on January 20, 1875 in Anderson, South Carolina. After serving the military in the Spanish American War, C.I. enrolled in Clark College. It was there he began his baseball career as second baseman on the school's baseball team. His professional career began in 1904 when he became the manager of the Birmingham Giants. During the course of his managerial career he managed the Birmingham Giants (1904-1909), West Baden Sprudels (1910-1913) and Indianapolis ABC's (1914-1921) C.I. became half owner of the ABC's in 1914 and led them to a “Colored World's Champions” in 1916 when they defeated the Chicago American Giants in their championship series. C.I. passed away at 47 years of age on February 23, 1922. He was at the height of his managerial career.

John Boyce “Steel Arm Johnny” Taylor was born on August 12, 1879 in Anderson, South Carolina. “Steel Arm” Johnny started his professional baseball career in 1904 where he was the ace pitcher of brother C.I.'s Birmingham Giants. His baseball career lasted from 1904 to 1925. After his pitching career was over, he became a manager like his three brothers C.I., “Candy Jim” and Ben. Over the course of his career, he played for and managed for the Birmingham Giants, St. Paul Gophers, Chicago Giants, Leland Giants, Chicago Black Sox, West Baden Sprudels, St. Louis Giants, New York Lincoln Giants, Chicago American Giants, Indianapolis ABC's, Louisville White Sox, Bowser's ABC's, Hilldale, Bacharach Giants and Washington Potomacs. Johnny Taylor passed away on March 25, 1956 in Peoria, Illinois.



James Allen, John Boyce, Charles Isham and Benjamin

James Allen “Candy Jim” Taylor was born in 1884 in Anderson, South Carolina. He began his professional baseball career in 1904 when he was signed as the starting third baseman by the Birmingham Giants. Candy Jim started out as a player, became a player-manager on a fulltime basis in 1919 and continued to manage until he passed away in 1948. As a manager, Candy Jim won more than twice as many games as any other manager in the history of Negro League baseball. He also won three Negro National League titles and two Negro League World Series titles.

Benjamin Harrison “Ben” Taylor was born on July 1, 1888 in Anderson, South Carolina. He was the youngest of the four Taylor brothers. His playing career spanned from 1908 to 1929. During his career he was a .320 hitter and the top defensive first basemen of his day. Some of the teams he played for or was the player/manager of were: Birmingham Giants, West Baden Sprudels, Indianapolis ABC's, St. Louis Giants, New York Lincoln Giants, Chicago American Giants, Jewell's ABC's, Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Hilldale, Harrisburg Giants, Harrisburg Giants, Philadelphia Tigers, Washington Black Senators and Baltimore Black Sox. Ben Taylor also managed the Washington Potomacs (1923-1924), Harrisburg Giants (1925), Baltimore Black Sox (1926-1928), Washington Pilots (1932) and Brooklyn Eagles (1935). Ben Taylor died on January 24, 1953 in Baltimore (MD). He was elected to the National Baseball Fame in 2006.

James Allen “Candy Jim” Taylor was born on February 1, 1884 in Anderson, South Carolina. He was one of thirteen children born to Isham and Adaline Taylor. Isham was a Methodist minister and farmer. Three of James’ brothers also became professional ball players. His other ball playing brothers were: Charles Isham “C.I.” (1875), John Boyce “Steel Arm Johnny” (1879) and Benjamin Harrison “Ben” (1888).

He stood approximately five feet four inches tall and weighed 165 to 185 pounds during his playing days. Taylor batted from the right hand side of the plate and he threw right handed.

Candy Jim was a solid hitter his entire career who seemed to get better with age. He had a career batting average of .289 for his “Negro League” career and an overall batting average of .298 against all levels of competition.

Taylor was primarily a third baseman but also played second base on occasion. He possessed exceptional defensive skills at third base. Quick reflexes and a sure handed glove were two of the main keys to his success at third base. He also had a strong, accurate throwing arm. An example of his exemplary skills at third base was seen in his very first year of professional baseball with the Birmingham Giants. In his first 55 games with Birmingham in 1904, he made only 3 errors.

Throughout his career he was a good runner on the base paths. Early in his career he did show very good speed that resulted in stolen bases.

He was also known for his discipline and quick thinking any time he was on the field.



Candy Jim Taylor
1884-1948

Even though Candy Jim Taylor was an excellent baseball player, he is best remembered as a manager. Over the course of his managing career which began in 1919 on a fulltime basis and continued until he passed away in 1948, Taylor won more than twice as many ball games as any other manager in the history of Negro League baseball. His career won-loss record in “league” games and games against teams of top level competition stands at 926-826-6 (.529) This total includes: “league” games, games against top level “black” teams, championship series games, Negro League World Series games and East-West All Star games. His overall won-loss record currently stands at 1094-892-10 (.551) in games against all levels of competition.

Candy Jim Taylor’s professional baseball career spanned five decades from 1904 to 1947. He starting playing baseball before there was a Negro National League, Eastern Colored League or Negro American League and he was there when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. Had it not been for his untimely death in 1947, his career would have undoubtedly continued into the 1950’s because he had been signed to manage the Baltimore Elite Giants for the 1948 season.

Early Baseball Career

Growing up in Anderson, South Carolina as one of the Taylor brothers, there was no doubt in anyone’s mind that James would be a ball player. James Allen Taylor honed his baseball skills playing for local sandlot and semipro teams in South Carolina. His first year in organized baseball was 1901 when he played catcher for a local amateur team in Anderson, South Carolina.

Taylor also attended Greely Institute in Anderson, South Carolina where he was said to have played on the local baseball team.

Negro League Career

Taylor began his professional baseball career in 1904 when he went to Birmingham, Alabama to play third base for the Birmingham Giants. The Giants were formed at the beginning of the 1904 baseball season by James' older brother C. I. Taylor who was also the team's manager. West End Park in Birmingham served as the home field for the Birmingham Giants.

Led by the Taylor brothers with Candy Jim at third, C.I. filling in at second base and "Steel Arm" Johnny as the ace of the pitching staff, the Birmingham Giants quickly became one of the top teams in the South. By 1907 the Birmingham Giants were the "Negro Champions of the South." After finishing the 1907 regular season with a won-loss record of 51-31 (.622), they defeated Smokey Joe Williams and the San Antonio Black Bronchos of the Texas Colored League for the title. The Birmingham Giants continued their winning ways in 1908 when they started the season off with a record of 15-7 (.682) and ended the season by being crowned as the "Negro Champions of the South" for the second straight year..

Candy Jim Taylor played for the Birmingham Giants from 1904 through 1908. Over his five seasons with the Giants he posted batting averages of .290, .306, .298, .340 and .316.



Birmingham Giants (1908)

C.I Taylor (Manager) and Candy Jim Taylor (Third base)

In 1908 Rube Foster brought his team, the Leland Giants, on a Southern barnstorming tour. During their tour the Leland Giants played the Birmingham Giants. It was during this tour that Rube Foster saw Candy Jim play and offered him a contract with the Leland Giants for the 1909 season. The Giants were just coming off a highly successful season in 1908 when they went 64-21 (.753) and Foster was looking to strengthen an already strong line-up that included Pete Hill (OF), Andrew "Jap" Payne (OF), Pete Booker (C) and Mike Moore (1B). Foster's pitching staff included himself, Walter Ball, Bill Gatewood and Dicta Johnson. The Leland Giants played an independent schedule but also played in the highly competitive Chicago City League.



St. Paul Gophers (1909)
(Taylor – seated second from left)

Candy Jim was only with the Leland Giants for a very short period of time before he left for Minnesota to join his brother “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor who was the top pitcher for the St. Paul Colored Gophers. Phil “Daddy” Reid owned the Colored Gophers and was dedicated to bringing championship black baseball to Minnesota. The St. Paul Gophers were managed by Dick Wallace and played their home games in Downtown Park in St. Paul. The 1909 St. Paul team was loaded with talent. From the limited number of box scores against top level teams that have been found, it appears William Binga (.364) and Candy Jim Taylor (.348) were the offensive stars of the team. “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor who had a record of 28-3 (.903) with St. Paul in 1909 was the ace of the pitching staff. Robert “Buster” Garrison, Julius London and Johnny Davis rounded out the starting rotation. A complete schedule for the team for the 1909 season has yet to be recovered, but we do know from newspaper accounts that from June 14th to July 16th the team compiled a won-loss record of 30-7-1 (.811) and they finished up the regular season even stronger by going 28-4 (.875) from August 1st through September 17th.

After the St. Paul Gophers had soundly beaten all their regular season opponents, they played a five game series against the Leland Giants for the “Colored Championship of the West.” The Leland Giants were managed by Rube Foster and considered by the media as “unquestionably the greatest team of Afro-Americans ever assembled and far famed as the best in the land.” The five game championship series was played in Downtown Park in St. Paul (MN). Candy Jim Taylor went 5 for 6 in game one of the series and led his team to a 10-9 victory. The Leland Giants came back and won games two and three. The Gophers tied the series by taking game four. Going into the top of the ninth inning in the fifth and deciding game, the Leland Giants held a one run lead. Starting pitcher “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor knocked in the tying run and what would prove to be the winning run. After his heroics at the plate, “Steel Arm” went back out to the mound in the bottom of the ninth and shut down the Leland hitters to give the St. Paul Colored Gophers a 3-2 win and the championship.

After their victory over the Leland Giants, St. Paul became the self-proclaimed “World’s Colored Champions.”

Taylor returned to the St. Paul Colored Gophers in 1910 to help them defend their “World’s Championship.” The 1909 season had been a tremendous success for St. Paul in terms of their won-loss record and “World’s Colored Championship,” but it had left the team in deep financial trouble. In April of 1910, Phil Reid announced he was disbanding the team. All the best players of the Colored Gophers signed with other teams. Candy Jim Taylor, “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor, Chappie Johnson, Bobby Marshall and Felix “Dick” Wallace went to the Chicago Giants.

The Chicago Giants were formed in 1910 by Frank Leland when he and his partner Rube Foster terminated their relationship and split up the Leland Giants. The Chicago Giants fielded a strong team that was led by the hitting of Bill Pettus, Nate Harris, Dangerfield Talbert, George Wright and Dick Wallace. The heart and real strength of the Giants team, however, was their pitching staff which included Smokey Joe Williams, “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor and Walter Ball. Leland’s Chicago Giants made Auburn Park located at 79th and Wentworth Avenue in Chicago their home field but spent a good portion of their season on the road. In April and May of 1910, the Chicago Giants made an extensive road trip through the South and then back to Chicago. According to first baseman Bobby Marshall, the Chicago Giants compiled a won-loss record of 35-3 on the trip. Shortly after their return to Chicago, Bobby Marshall and Candy Jim Taylor returned to St. Paul and helped reorganize the St. Paul Colored Gophers.



Chicago (Leland) Giants (1910)
(Taylor – standing third from left)

Shortly after their return to Chicago, Bobby Marshall and Candy Jim Taylor returned to St. Paul and helped reorganize the St. Paul Colored Gophers. Candy Jim became the team captain and manager of the “new” version of the St. Paul Colored Gophers. The team played their home games at Lexington Park during the 1910 season. Sadly, in less than a year the team had gone from a “World’s Championship” to a mediocre team with significant financial concerns. St. Paul’s play against the Chicago Giants best evidenced their fall in stature as a top level team. In their biggest series of the season, the Colored Gophers dropped four games of their five game series against Chicago. Bobby Marshall (.375) and William Binga (.278) were St. Paul’s top hitters. The pitching rotation included Dicta Johnson, Lefty Pangburn and Johnny Davis. Financial problems plagued the Colored Gophers all season and by late August the team’s roster had been reduced to nine players.



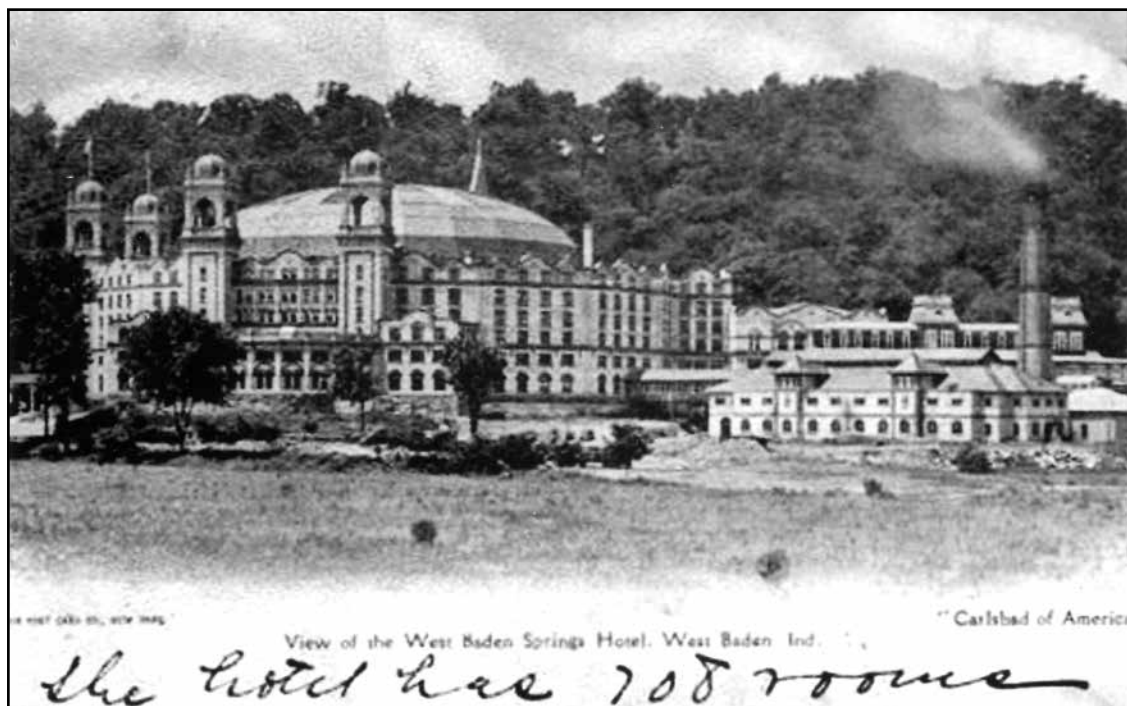
St. Paul Gophers (1910)

(left to right – Arthur McDougall, George Bowman, Thomas Pangburn, **Candy Jim Taylor**, **William Binga**, George Armstrong, John Davis, **Sherman Barton**, Wesley, Ford and **Bobby Marshall**)

In June of 1910 Candy Jim Taylor left the St. Paul Gophers to join his brother C.I. Taylor who managed the West Baden Sprudels in West Baden, (IN). The West Baden Sprudels were owned by the Burnett-Pollard-Rogers Baseball Club Company and played their home games at Sprudel Park which was part of the famous West Baden Resort. The Sprudels main competition during the season was the French Lick Plutos who represented the French Lick Resort. The two teams played each other almost daily during the “resort season” as a means of entertainment for the resort guests. Together West Baden and French Lick formed what was called the Springs Valley League. In previous years the French Lick Plutos had dominated play with the West Baden Sprudels. However in 1910, C.I. Taylor breathed new life into West Baden and they defeated the French Lick Plutos on a regular basis.

Instead of returning to West Baden in 1911, Candy Jim signed with the St. Louis Giants. His brothers Ben and Johnny also played for the Giants. The St. Louis Giants along with the Chicago American Giants and Kansas City Giants were considered the top three teams in the West during the 1911 baseball season. The St. Louis Giants were owned by Charles Mills (an African American bank messenger) and managed by Felix “Dick” Wallace. They played their home games at Athletic Park in St. Louis. The top hitters for the St. Louis Giants in 1911 were Jimmie Lyons (.386), Ben Taylor (.379), Joe Hewitt (.308) and Candy Jim Taylor (.290). Ben Taylor and “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor were the top two pitchers on the team during the season. The St. Louis Giants had a very successful year and posted a won-loss record of 24-16 (.600) against other top level black teams.

At the beginning of the 1912 baseball season, all four Taylor brothers found themselves on the same team (West Baden Sprudels). C.I. managed the team, Candy Jim played third base and Ben and “Steel Arm” Johnny were the team’s top two pitchers. They played a significant number of games against the French Lick Plutos as well as an independent schedule. George Shively (OF), George Brown (OF) and Bingo DeMoss (2B) were West Baden’s top offensive ball players. Shortly after the regular season started, Candy Jim was recruited by Rube Foster of the Chicago American Giants to join his team as their starting third baseman. Taylor jumped at the chance to play for the best black club in the West. Without Candy Jim in the line-up, the Sprudels struggled the rest of the season and finished the year with a record of 11-16 (.407) against top level black teams.



West Baden Springs Hotel

When Candy Jim joined the 1912 Chicago American Giants as their starting third baseman, they were one of the top black clubs in the country. Rube Foster was the manager of the team and one of their top two pitchers (Bill Lindsay was the other). They were led by the hitting of Pete Hill (.399), Jesse Barber (.369), Frank Duncan (.342) and Bill Pierce (.311). Candy Jim batted fourth in the line-up. He had an off year at the plate in his first season with the American Giants. In 97 at bats against top level competition, Taylor collected 24 hits for a .247 batting average. Even with all their good hitters, the strongest component of Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants was their pitching staff. Chicago had the deepest pitching staff in black baseball in 1912. Their pitching staff included: Charles Dougherty, Rube Foster, Bill Gatewood, Dicta Johnson, Bill Lindsay and Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware.

During and after the season, Rube Foster promoted his team as the "Colored Champions of the World." Foster claimed the Chicago American Giants had a won-loss record of 120-12 (.909) for the 1912 season. Foster, however, had a history of exaggerating or taking a different view than the facts would support. From the fifty-two (52) line scores that have been found for the Chicago American Giants' 1912 season, they had a record of 38-14 (.731). It is important to note that the Chicago American Giants played significantly more than 52 games during the season. The Chicago American Giants were recognized as the top black team in the West for the 1912 baseball season. No series between Chicago and the top team in the East was held during 1912.

Chicago American Giants Go to California

During the winter of 1912-13, Rube Foster, the manager of the Chicago American Giants, took his team to the West Coast to play in the California Winter League. Foster brought a strong team to California with him that included Pete Hill (OF), Bill Monroe (2B), Bruce Petway (C), Dicta Johnson (P) and Candy Jim Taylor (3B). Unfortunately for Foster the other three teams in the California Winter League (San Diego Bears, Tufts-Lyons and Mc Cormicks) also fielded strong teams that included several Major League players and numerous Minor League stars.

Candy Jim Taylor had an excellent season in California against the Major and Minor League pitchers and posted a .407 batting average to lead his team in hitting. Other top hitters for the Chicago American Giants for the 1912-13 California Winter League season were Bill Monroe

(.314), Jess Barbour (.300) and Bruce Petway (.292). Pete Hill (.235) and Frank Duncan (.205) who had been two of the team's leading hitters during the regular season struggled at the plate the entire winter season. Dicta Johnson (3-0) and Bill Lindsay (3-2) were the top pitchers for Chicago. Rube Foster went 0-2 during the California Winter League season and lost a crucial game towards the end of the season against the San Diego Bears.

The final standings and which team won the 1912-13 California Winter League championship is not totally clear. Research by William McNeil indicates that the San Diego Bears behind the hitting of Tom Downey (.435), Chief Myers (.391) and Jack Roche (.364) won the league title with a record of 7-4 (.636). The Bears posted a 5-1 (.833) record at home during the season. McNeil's research also indicated that the Chicago American Giants posted a won-loss record of 6-7 (.462) for the 1912-13 season. The Chicago Defender, however, reported that the Chicago American Giants won the championship. It is important to keep in mind that the Chicago Defender may have been a little biased in their reporting.

American Giants Return to Play in the West

Candy Jim Taylor returned to the Chicago American Giants for their 1913 season as their starting third baseman. During the season the American Giants got outstanding hitting. They had six starting players who hit over .300 for the season and compiled a team batting average of .287 (243 for 1713). The starting players that hit over .300 for the 1913 season were: Ben Taylor (.343), Pete Hill (.341), Bill Gatewood (.333), Jess Barber (.312), Bill Pierce (.310) and Candy Jim Taylor (.308). The pitching staff was led by Bill Lindsay, Bill Gatewood, Dicta Johnson, Rube Foster, Charles Dougherty and "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor.

One of the highlights of the 1913 season was a benefit game played between members of the Chicago American Giants and the Chicago Giants honoring Dangerfield Talbert who had died in Omaha (NB) before the start of the season. The two Chicago based teams divided up into two squads, one headed up by Pete Hill (Hill's) and the other led by Joe Green (Green's). Dicta Johnson pitched for the Hill's and Rube Foster pitched for Green's. Candy Jim played third base for Hill's and batted in the fifth spot in the line-up. Pete Hill's team easily won the game by a score of 6-0.

By the end of the 1913 season the American Giants along with the Chicago Giants and St. Louis Giants were the top three teams in the West. The Chicago American Giants had a record of 59-23-1 (.720) in 1913.

The Chicago American Giants promoted themselves as the "Colored Champions of the West" during the season. From mid- July to late August they played the Lincoln Giants of New York in a "Colored Championship of the World" series. The Lincoln Giants prevailed. New York won seven games to five games for Chicago.

Baseball Title to Lincoln Giants.
Chicago, Aug. 13.—The Lincoln Giants, of New York, won the negro baseball championship of the United States today, defeating the American Giants, of Chicago, 4 to 1, giving them seven victories of the twelve games played. The visitors left for New York tonight.

Washington Post

08-14-13

Before the start of the 1914 baseball season, C.I. Taylor purchased half interest in the Indianapolis ABC's. Timing was perfect for C.I. to invest in the ABC's because the Indianapolis Hoosiers (Federal League) had just completed a brand new \$ 100,000 ball park and the ABC's were able to lease the stadium for their home games. As a co-owner and manager of the ABC's, one of the first things C.I. did was to sign his three brothers (Ben, Candy Jim and Steel Arm Johnny) to play for Indianapolis. He also brought in Dicta Johnson, George Brown, George Shively, Joe Scotland and several others new players. When all of C. I's changes were in place, only two players (Todd Allen and Fred Hutchinson) from the 1913 team had made the starting line-up for opening day. The moves paid big dividends and before long the ABC's were beating the best teams in the West. On May 3rd a rare event occurred when all four Taylor brothers were in the same line-up for a game against the Specials of Peru. The top hitters for the ABC's for the

1914 season were Ben Taylor (.366), George Shively (.343), Candy Jim Taylor (.290) and George Brown (.278). To go along with his .290 batting average, Taylor had a slugging percentage of .484. Taylor's seven (7) homeruns for the season made him one of the top homerun hitters in the West during the season. Dicta Johnson (12-7), String Bean Williams (10-6), Ben Taylor (4-0) and "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor (3-6) were the team's top pitchers.



(left to right – “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor, Dicta Johnson, C.I. Taylor, Russell Powell, Joe Scotland, Williams, Thomas Bowser, Alonzo Burch, Fred Hutchinson, George Brown and Candy Jim Taylor)

Indianapolis finished the 1914 regular season with a record of 45-19 (.703) against top level teams. They were considered the second best team in the West behind the Chicago American Giants.

After the regular season baseball fans in Indianapolis wanted to see a post season “Championship of Indiana” series between the Indianapolis Hoosiers (Federal League) and the Indianapolis ABC’s. C.I. Taylor was willing to play but the series was vetoed by W. H. “Billy” Watkins, the owner of the Hoosiers. Watkins rationale for not playing the ABC’s was reported in the Ledger (local newspaper) with the following comment from the Hoosiers’ owner.

“I have too much to lose in the event my club should go down, before the prowess of the colored boys. If I thought the Feds would put forth the same effort to win as they do in the regular league games, and would be assured they would, I would not hesitate a minute. I believe the attraction would bring splendid crowds.”

In October and November of 1914, the Indianapolis ABC’s played a four game series against the Donie Bush All Stars. The ABC’s dropped the first two games, but came back behind the pitching of Dicta Johnson to win the last two games to even the series at two games apiece.

During the regular 1915 baseball season, Candy Jim Taylor played for four different teams. Taylor played for the Indianapolis ABC’s, Louisville White Sox, Chicago Black Sox and the West Baden Sprudels.

The Louisville White Sox were a mediocre team managed by Candy Jim’s brother “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor. They played their home games in Eclipse (PA) at Spring Bank Park. Other than Candy Jim who hit .360 with a .460 slugging average, no other player on the team hit better than .256. The Louisville White Sox had a dismal .201 team batting average. The White Sox pitching staff didn’t fare much better. The starting rotation for Louisville included “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor, Edgar Burch and Sherley Moore. From the eighteen box scores that have been found for the Louisville White Sox, they had a won-loss record of 5-13 (.278).

“Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor also managed the Chicago Black Sox during the 1915 season and Candy Jim followed his brother to Chicago to play third base for him. The Chicago Black Sox was a significantly better team than the Louisville White Sox. The Black line-up included Morten Clark (SS), Ashby Dunbar (OF), Wallace Gordon (2B), Dan Kennard (C) and several other seasoned players. “Steel Arm” Johnny Taylor and Jim Jefferies were the team’s top two pitchers.

Candy Jim Taylor also played briefly for the West Baden Sprudels during 1915. West Baden was managed by Chappie Johnson. The Sprudels had a line-up of proven players that included Charlie Blackwell (OF), Otto Briggs (OF), George Brown (OF), Bunny Downs (SS), Dan Kennard (C) and Hub Miller (P).

After the 1915 regular season, Candy Jim joined the Indianapolis ABC’s for their yearly exhibition series versus the Donie Bush All Stars.

Candy Jim Taylor Travels to Florida

Before the start of the regular 1916 baseball season, Candy Jim Taylor went to Florida to play third base for the Royal Poinciana Hotel baseball club in what is commonly referred to as the Florida Hotel League or the Coconut League. This league was made up of only two teams: the Royal Poinciana team and the Breakers Bulldogs representing the Breakers Hotel. These two exclusive resort hotels employed black ball players as waiters, bellmen and other hotel jobs during the winter months. Then on the weekends the two hotels would play each other in baseball games for the entertainment of their hotel guests.

The Royal Poinciana team was led by the hitting of Ben Taylor (.343), Joe Hewitt (.333), Todd Allen (.313) and Ashby Dunbar (.300). Dizzy Dismukes (2-2) and John Donaldson (1-5) were the two top starting pitchers for the Royal Poinciana team. Spottswood Poles (.353) led the Breakers in hitting and behind the pitching of Smokey Joe William (5-1) and Ad Langford (5-2) the Breakers Bulldogs claimed the Florida Hotel League championship at the end of the 1916 season. The Breakers Hotel team finished the season with a record of 10-6-1.



Royal Poinciana Hotel Baseball Club (1916)

(Jim Taylor – back row second on left, Ben Taylor – middle row first on left, C.I. Taylor – front row third on right)

Taylor Brothers Reunite in Indianapolis

The 1916 baseball season opened with two ABC teams (Bowser's ABC's and the Indianapolis ABC's). Tom Bowser who had been C.I. Taylor's partner in the ownership of the Indianapolis ABC's formed his own team (Bowser's ABC's) when he became upset with several business and player personnel decisions that C.I. had made without his knowledge or input. Bowser's ABC's played their games out of Northwestern Park and the Indianapolis ABC's home field was Federal League Park.

After conducting spring training in New Orleans (LA), the ABC's began their regular season. During their spring training in New Orleans, C.I. Taylor signed a young college student by the name of Dave Malarcher who would go on to a long distinguished career in Negro League baseball as both a player and manager. The Indianapolis ABC's proved to be the stronger ABC team because most all of the team's top players stayed with C.I. Taylor. George Shively (.333), Ben Taylor (.313), Russell Powell (.302), Jim Jefferies (.301), Candy Jim Taylor (.301) and Oscar Charleston (.293) led C.I. Taylor's team in hitting. C.I. also had an excellent pitching staff that included Dizzy Dismukes (9-6), Dicta Johnson (7-6), Jim Jeffries, Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware and "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor.

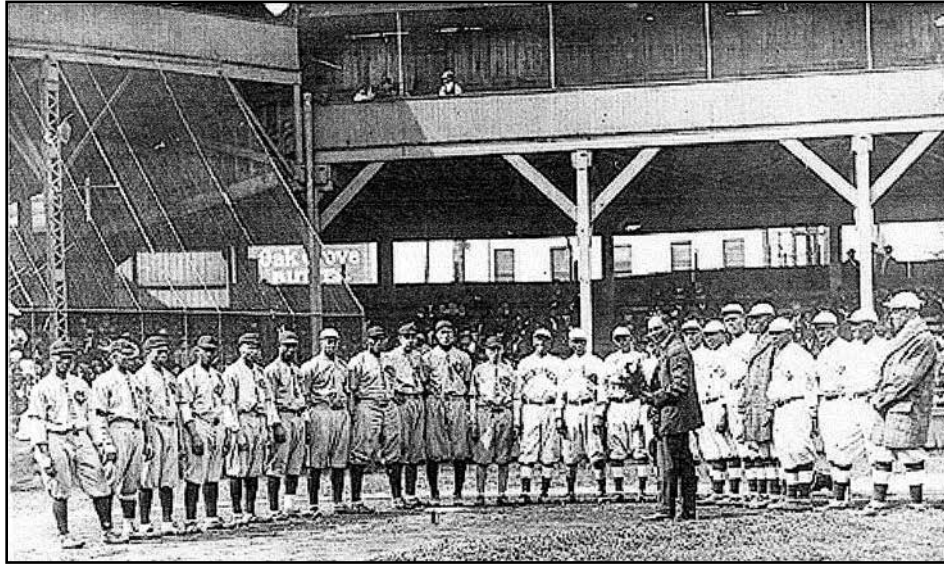
The Indianapolis ABC's ended the regular season as one of the top teams in the West with a won-loss record of 23-18-3 (.561) in games against top level teams and an overall record of 43-23-2 (.652) against all levels of competition.

In October of 1916 the Indianapolis ABC's took on the Chicago American Giants for the "Colored Championship of the West." Rube Foster's American Giants had dominated black baseball in the West for years, but they would meet their match with C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABC's in the winter of 1916. Game one was played in Indianapolis on October 1st. The Chicago American Giants won game one by a score of 5 to 3. Indianapolis then came back and won the next three games by the scores of 1-0, 9-0 and 8-2 before the series moved to Chicago. The fifth game was played in Chicago on October 29th. Indianapolis won game five in a slugfest by the score of 12-8, making them the "Colored Champions of the West." Candy Jim Taylor led all hitters in the series with a .529 batting average (9 for 17) and Dizzy Dismukes was perfect on the mound for the ABC's, going 3-0 in the series. The Indianapolis ABC's laid claim to the title of "Colored Champions of the World" on the strength of their victory over the Chicago American Giants.

After spending the winter in Indianapolis working in C.I.'s pool hall on Indiana Ave, Candy Jim reported to the ABC's for spring training in West Baden-French Lick (IN). The Indianapolis ABC's started the 1917 season in a new stadium (Washington Park) after Federal League Park had been torn down. Indianapolis fans had high hopes for their team defending their "World Championship" title. The season opened with a massive celebration that included a parade to the ball park. The Indianapolis ABC's would have competition in the local market for black fans from Jewell's ABC's during the season. Jewell's ABC's was formed when Thomas Bowser sold his team to Warner Jewell. Interestingly enough C.I. Taylor's team never played Jewell's ABC's team during the season.

The Indianapolis ABC's had a strong roster in 1917 with virtually their entire starting line-up returning from the championship team. Unfortunately, all the hitters had down seasons. Charles Blackwell (.252), Oscar Charleston (.292), Morten Clark (.206), Dave Malarcher (.233), Russell Powell (.237), George Shively (.279), Ben Taylor (.294), Candy Jim Taylor (.271) and Frank Warfield (.214) all hit below what they had done the season before. No starting player on the 1917 team including Oscar Charleston batted over .300 for the season. Andrew "String Bean" Williams was the ace of the pitching staff with a 9-3 (.750) record. Other pitchers in the starting rotation were Bill Gatewood (7-9), Jim Jeffries (4-3), Dicta Johnson (3-4) and Dizzy Dismukes (2-5). The biggest disappointment in the starting rotation was Dizzy Dismukes who had posted a 13-4 record for the 1916 season.

The team struggled at the plate and on the mound all season. On July 14th they were 13-13-1 with seven losses to the Cuban Stars. Things did pick up as the season continued but the team was plagued with injuries all season. Indianapolis ABC's went from a "Colored World's Championship" in 1916 to a disappointing season in which they posted a 36-25-1 (.574). At the end of the 1917 regular season, C.I. Taylor conceded that the Chicago American Giants were the best team in the West for "that" season. The ABC's continued to barnstorm after the 1917 regular season. They played exhibition games in September and October against the Indianapolis Indians (American Association), Dolan's Indianapolis All Pros and Donie Bush's All Stars.



Indianapolis ABC's vs Peter's Chicago Union Giants (1917)

The 1918 baseball season was difficult for both "black" and "white" teams because the United States was in the midst of World War I. In response to the war effort the U.S. government placed a 10 % tax on all tickets, many players were lost to the draft and numerous other players took to defense jobs and were lost for the season or at a minimum had their playing time severely limited. During the season, the Indianapolis ABC's lost most of their starting line-up to the military. These players included: Oscar Charleston, Morten Clark, William "Dizzy" Dismukes, Dicta Johnson, Jimmy Lyons and Dave Malarcher.

The Indianapolis ABC's conducted their spring training for the 1918 season at Northwestern Park in Indianapolis. They opened the regular season on April 6th at Washington Park against Dizzy Dismukes and the Dayton Marcos. Candy Jim Taylor returned to the Indianapolis ABC's for the 1918 season. The ABC's were led by the hitting of Oscar Charleston (.381), George Shively (.338), Frank Warfield (.333) and Ben Taylor (.320). Candy Jim had a poor season at the plate and only hit .229 in the 30 games against top level teams in which he played. Jim Jeffries (7-2), Andrew "String Bean" Williams (6-4), Dizzy Dismukes (4-5) and John Donaldson (3-1) were the team's top pitchers.

Even with all of their roster problems, the ABC's rebounded from the previous season. One of the highlights of the season was a tour of the East with the Chicago American Giants. The two teams played each other on July 27th in Washington D.C. before 8,000 fans. Chicago won the game by a score of 6-2. The tour was a huge success as the two teams played each other and many of the top teams in the East. The Indianapolis ABC's finished the 1918 regular season with a won-loss record of 26-12-1 (.684).

Taylor also played for the Dayton Marcos during the 1918 season.

During the 1919 baseball season Candy Jim Taylor was the player-manager of the Dayton Marcos and also played for the Detroit Stars. The Dayton Marcos were a mediocre team who played out of Westwood Field in Dayton. Unfortunately for Candy Jim, he inherited a very poor hitting team in the Marcos. Outfielder George Brown was the team's leading hitter with a .254 batting average. Candy Jim's batting average of .246 was the second highest on the team. The Marcos had a team batting average of a mere .216. Dayton had a good pitching staff in Andrew "String Bean" Williams, Dizzy Dismukes, Ed "Huck" Rile and George Britt, but they didn't get any run support. In the eighteen box scores that have been found for the 1919 Dayton Marcos, they had a won-loss record of 6-12 (.333).

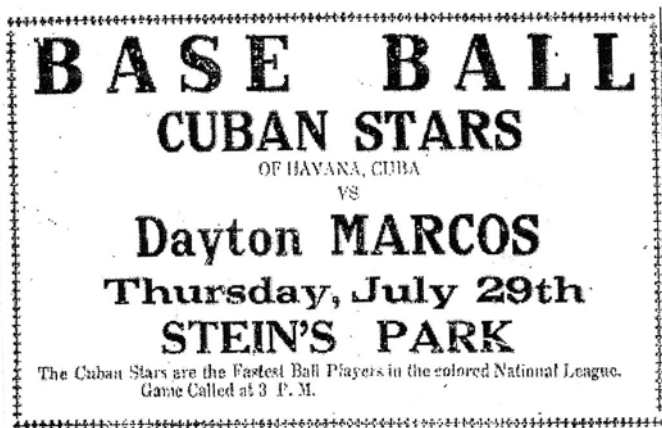
The Detroit Stars were founded in 1919 by Terry Blount with the assistance of Rube Foster of the Chicago American Giants. Foster sent seven of his veteran players (Pete Hill, John Donaldson, Tom Johnson, Jose Mendez, Bruce Petway, Edgar Wesley and Frank Wickware) to Detroit to help them establish their team. The Detroit Stars were managed by Pete Hill and quickly became one of the top teams in the West. Pete Hill (.396) and Edgar Wesley (.322) were the team's top two hitters. In his partial season with the Stars, Candy Jim batted .235 with a .366 slugging percentage. The Stars pitching staff included Sam Crawford (10-4), John Donaldson (5-5), Dicta Johnson (5-3), Jose Mendez (3-0), Frank Wickware (3-2) and Tom Johnson. The Detroit Stars finished the season with a record of 27-14 (.659) and along with the Chicago American Giants (31-11) were considered the two best teams in the West.

Before the start of the 1920 baseball season, Rube Foster, the owner of the Chicago American Giants, formed the Negro National League. Foster's "league" brought formal organization to baseball in the West. The eight teams that played in the Negro National League in their inaugural season and the final league standings were as follows:

Negro National League (1920)

Team	Games	Record	Pct.	Standing
Chicago American Giants	45	32-13	.711	1 st
Detroit Stars	58	35-23	.603	2 nd
Kansas City Monarchs	70	41-29	.586	3 rd
Indianapolis ABC's	74	39-35	.527	4 th
Cuban Stars	45	21-24	.467	5 th
St. Louis Giants	57	25-32	.439	6 th
Dayton Marcos	26	8-18	.308	7 th
Chicago Giants	28	4-24	.143	8 th

Candy Jim Taylor had the distinction of managing during the first season of the Negro National League when he was signed as the player-manager of the Dayton Marcos. Taylor's team started the season strong. According to an article that appeared in the Indianapolis Star on May 23rd, they were tied for first place in the Negro National League. In late June of 1920, the Dayton Marcos promoted themselves as "Champions of the National League of Colored Teams." As the season progressed the Dayton Marcos faltered. Koke Alexander (.350) was the team's leading hitter and George Britt (6-8) was the ace of the pitching staff. Besides managing the team, Candy Jim was also Dayton's starting third baseman and batted fourth in the line-up. In 140 at bats for the Marcos, Taylor collected 33 hits for a .236 batting average.

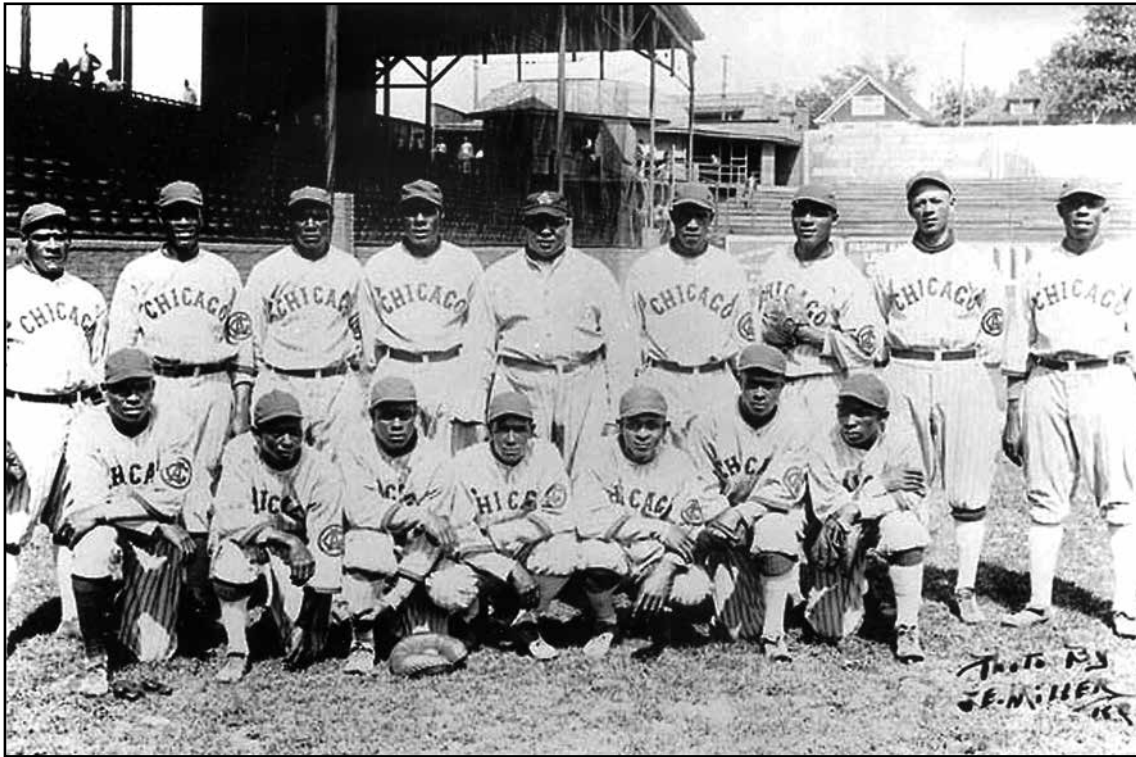


Piqua Daily Call

Piqua, OH
07-27-20

Dayton Marcos compiled a record of 8-18 (.308) in Negro National League games and an overall record of 16-36 (.308).

Taylor joined the Chicago American Giants in September of 1920. The Chicago American Giants dominated all their opponents during the 1920 season. Cristobal Torriente (.411), George Dixon (.324) and Bingo De Moss (.314) were Chicago's leading hitters. Tom Johnson (11-0), Dave Brown (13-3) and Tom Williams (12-4) anchored the American Giants pitching staff. The Chicago American Giants won the Negro National League title with a record of 32-13 (.711) in "league" games and compiled an overall record of 49-21-2 (.700).



Chicago American Giants (1920)

After they won the Negro National League championship, Chicago played the Knoxville Giants who were the Negro Southern League champions in a "World's Championship Series." Candy Jim was the starting third baseman for the Chicago American Giants during the series. The series began in late September with three games being played at Rickwood Field in Birmingham (AL). The Chicago Whip reports that the Chicago American Giants won all three games convincingly. The Chicago American Giants defeated the Knoxville Giants in what was in reality the "first" Negro League World Series ever played.



Chicago Whip

10-02-20

A GOOD INVESTMENT!

TO PUT CLEVELAND ON OUR BASEBALL MAP THE TATE STARS BASEBALL CO.

CAPITAL STOCK, \$25,000. Incorporated Under Ohio State Laws.

<p>PROPOSITION</p> <p>The Tate Stars Baseball Co., incorporated under the laws of Ohio, capitalized at \$25,000.00, per value of stock \$1.00, offers you an interest in this game that will be profitable, combined with an investment always satisfactory—good real estate. Such an opportunity is rare now—Cleveland Real Estate.</p> <p>We have taken option on 11.2 acres of fine property for a park, located in the heart of this great industrial city—only 12 miles southeast from downtown Cleveland Ave. and E. 51th St. The actual increased value of this property is conservatively placed at \$25,000 by high class realty men. We have planned and propose the erection of a large grandstand and bleachers at a cost of \$25,000. This makes the actual potential value of this property—what you can acquire interest in—nearly \$50,000.</p> <p>We hope to have the enthusiastic support of hundreds of interested stockholders, with a faith that Tate Stars Company shall be built on a solid rock of mutual cooperation and benefit.</p> <p>Address all communications to:</p>	<p>SAFETY AND PROFITS</p> <p>A franchise has been secured in the Western United Nat'l League by Fred A. Rube Fichter and the Board of Directors. The teams in this league have been making big money. One western club is well and truthfully known to have made over \$25,000 this year while another club is commonly known to have made over \$17,000 in the past two years. A well-known and strong bank has been secured as depository for all funds. The Secretary-Treasurer, as holder of all funds, is backed by a big banking company.</p>	<p>DIRECTORATE</p> <p>In this new enterprise our directors comprise no young names, but they are all honorable and capable men. Personnel of all calibre. George L. Tate, President of the company, is a merchant who has for 4 years conducted a successful business. James Fitch, Vice-President, is a popular sportsman known best as "Buster Fitch".</p> <p>Colman A. Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer, is a popular young business man. Famous chamberlain-commodore, Western Reserve Judge, R. F.</p> <p>Gen. A. Mandy, our counselor and attorney. Lewis B. McDermott, General, D. M. Morley, General Coal & Fuel Co., ex-manager of the Giants, J. R. Dwyer, Dan Williams.</p> <p>We consider our proposition a good and profitable investment, founded on baseball, a recreation park and a fine real estate property. Our directors believe in it to the extent that they have all ready subscribed to \$1,000 of stock with options on more. Others are 118 million-dollar common men preferred. Act at once!</p>
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New Ball Park

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Big opening parade, music by two bands on Saturday. Band concert on Sunday.

TATE STARS

vs.

PGH. KEYSTONES

Saturday, Sunday and Monday, June 4, 5 and 6
Games at 3 p. m.

Cleveland Tate Stars
vs
Pittsburgh Keystones

Opening Day at Tate Field
June 24, 1922

In 1921 Candy Jim Taylor was hired by the Cleveland Tate Stars as their player-manager. The Tate Stars were owned by George Tate who also owned the ball park (Tate Field) in which the team played. In order to raise money to finance the team and build the ball park, Tate sold shares in the Tate Stars Baseball Company for \$10.00 and then \$15.00 a share. Tate Field opened on June 4, 1921 with the Cleveland Tate Stars taking an 8-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Keystones. The stadium was a huge success with the fans and opposing teams. Rube Foster (President of the Negro National League and owner of the Chicago American Giants) had the following to say about Tate Field: "one of the finest baseball stadiums owned by our people in the country." During the 1921 baseball season the Cleveland Tate Stars were an affiliate member of the Negro National League and also played an independent schedule. Cleveland's hitting attack was led by Mooney Ellis (.357), Fred Boyd (.333), Walter Cannady (.328), George Brown (.314), Robert Bonner (.300), Claude Johnson (.297), Carlisle Perry (.296), Wade Johnston (.292) and Candy Jim Taylor (.284). Besides managing the team Taylor was also Cleveland's starting third baseman. The Cleveland Tate Stars were an excellent hitting team, posting a .292 team batting average. Unfortunately, Candy Jim lacked the pitching to go along with his hitting. Slim Branham (7-7) was the ace of Cleveland's pitching staff. Farmer Brady and T. Hamilton rounded out the starting rotation. The Tate Stars were so desperate for pitching that Candy Jim was forced to use three of his starting outfielders (Walter Cannady, Wade Johnston and Bobo Leonard) on the mound in 14 of their 43 games (10 appearances were as starts). Thirty-seven year old Candy Jim Taylor also made two starts. Over the course of the season 28 % of Cleveland's starts were by players whose primary position was not as a pitcher. The Cleveland Tate Stars pitching staff had a 5.31 earned run average (ERA) for the season. To add to the team's problems they were faced with financial problems from the very start of the season. This was especially concerning because the Tate Stars drew sizeable crowds for all of their ball games. Financial mismanagement by George Tate was the topic of constant conversation and lawsuits during the entire year. Even with all their financial woes, pitching problems and being a first year team playing against top level competition on a regular basis, Candy Jim's Cleveland Tate Stars had a respectable first season, going 18-24-1 (.429) against the top level teams. Newspaper accounts reported a winning record against the independent and semi-pro teams they played during the 1921 season. When the Tate Stars were playing local teams, they were often promoted as "the strongest colored club in the country."

In 1922 George Tate paid the \$ 1,000.00 that was required for regular membership in the Negro National League and the Cleveland Tate Stars could now compete as a "league" team. The original schedule for the Tate Stars called for them to play 120 games during the season. Candy Jim Taylor now had another team in the Negro National League. Walter Cannady (.386), Mitchell Murray (.351), Claude Johnson (.304) and Fred Boyd (.297) led the Tate Stars in hitting during the season. Cleveland hitters couldn't match their performance from the year before (.292 team batting average) and the team batting average dropped 32 points to .260 with a .317 slugging percentage for the 1922 season. At thirty-eight Candy Jim Taylor showed his age at the plate, as his batting average dropped to .236 for the season. Taylor also had the same pitching problems as the season before. He didn't have enough quality starting pitchers. Slim Branham was Cleveland's top pitcher with a 5-10 record in 15 starts. Like the season before Candy Jim was forced to use outfielders Wade Johnston (10 starts in 11 appearances on the mound) and Walter Cannady (3 starts in 5 pitching appearances) as starting pitchers. Joe Strong and Bob McClure were the only two other "real" pitchers to play appreciably during the season. Strong pitched in 11 games and McClure pitched in 7 games. Both pitchers were 1-3 for the season.

**Tates Given
Franchise In
Negro League**

The Tate Stars, colored baseball team of Cleveland, seen here last season, have been voted a franchise in the Negro National league of which Rube Foster is president. The league is composed of Chicago, Indianapolis, Kansas City, St. Louis, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Chicago, and the Cuban Stars, a road team. A schedule of 120 games will be played.

The Tates also secured four new players. They are Britt, a first class pitcher, who worked against the Agathons in 1920 while on the roster of the Dayton Maroons, Keaton, another pitcher; Murray, catcher, and McClure, shortstop.

Evening Independent
Massillon, OH
02-08-22



Sandusky Star Journal
Sandusky, OH
10-13-22

During the season the Cleveland Tate Stars billed themselves as the “Colored Champions of Ohio” when promoting games against “non-league” opponents. They were evidently relatively successful against “non-league” and independent teams, but didn’t fare nearly as well against Negro National League competition. They finished the regular 1922 Negro National League season in eighth place. They were last in the Negro National League with a record of 17-29 (.370). Only the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (associate member of the league) who were 5-9 (.357) against “league” teams had a worse record for the season.

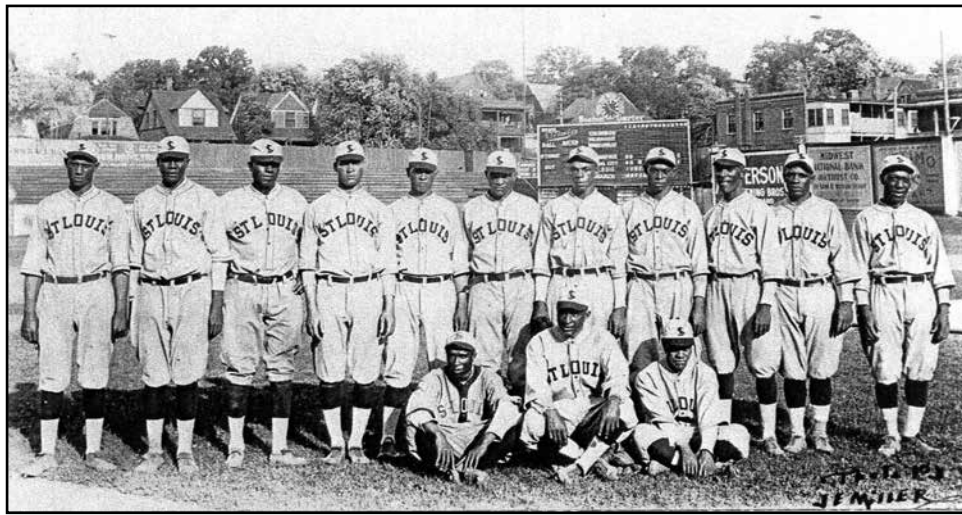
It is unclear how many games or even if Candy Jim Taylor managed the Cleveland Tate Stars at the beginning of the 1923 season. Our research seems to indicate that Candy Jim may have been with the Tate Stars until May when for some unspecified reason he left Cleveland and went to the Toledo Tigers. Speculation was that he had been fired following a dispute with team owner George Tate.

The Toledo Tigers and the Milwaukee Bears had been added to the Negro National League at the start of the 1923 season to replace the Cleveland Tate Stars and Pittsburgh Keystones who had been dropped after the 1922 season. Early in the season the Toledo Tigers merged with the Cleveland Nationals (short-lived independent team) and the team was taken over by Cleveland businessman Phil Fears. One of the first things Fears did was to replace team manager “Big Bill” Gatewood with Candy Jim Taylor. The Toledo Tigers played their home games at Swayne Field. Besides managing the team, Candy Jim Taylor was also the Tiger’s starting third baseman and leading hitter. At thirty-nine years of age Taylor had the best season of his entire career. While playing for the Toledo Tigers, Candy Jim batted .427 with a .522 slugging percentage. Other hitters on the team who put up good numbers for the season were Frank Duncan (.363), Mitchell Murray (.356), Dana Holt (.346), Herman Gordon (.298) and Oscar Hutt (.294). The 1923 Toledo Tigers compiled a .282 team batting average for their short stint in the Negro National League. As good as the Tigers were in the hitting department, they were equally as bad when it came to pitching. Toledo posted a team earned run average (ERA) of 6.03 for the 1923 Negro National League season. The starting rotation for the Toledo Tigers was made up of Dicta Johnson (5-2), Herman Gordon (4-2), Frank Stevens (1-4), “Big Bill” Gatewood (0-4) and Archie Cole (0-3).

Suffering from financial problems and poor attendance, the Toledo Tigers were disbanded in July of 1923 and were replaced by the Cleveland Tate Stars to play out the Toledo Tigers remaining schedule. The Toledo Tate Stars had a record of 11-15 (.423) when they dropped out of the “league.”

When the Toledo Tigers folded, Candy Jim Taylor went to the St. Louis Stars. Taylor replaced Joe Hewitt as manager and also became the team’s starting third baseman. Candy Jim continued on his hot hitting streak in St. Louis. In the 40 games he played for the Stars, he hit 15 homeruns, batted .343 and compiled a .714 slugging percentage. Sam Bennett (.391), George Scales (.390), Ed Gurley (.366), Joe Hewitt (.340), Mitchell Murray (.339), Otto Ray (.333), Doc Dudley (.330), John Reese (.316), Percy Miller (.315), Eddie Holtz (.310), Charlie Blackwell (.307) were the other St. Louis Stars players who hit over .300 for the season. The St. Louis Stars compiled an amazing .298 team batting average for the 1923 season. Unfortunately for the Stars, their pitching

staff was not nearly as effective as their hitters. The St. Louis pitching staff had a team earned run average (ERA) of 5.59 for the season. Over the course of the season the Stars used 15 different pitchers in “league” games. James “Cool Pappa” Bell (11-7), Archie Stewart (5-6), Fred Bell (4-4) and Ed Gurley (3-8) were the team’s top four pitchers for the 1923 season.



St. Louis Stars (c. 1923)
(Taylor – front row second from left)

The St. Louis Stars finished the 1923 Negro National League season in seventh place (sixth if you don’t count the Toledo Tigers who had dropped out of the league) in the final league standings with a won-loss record of 25-40 (.385).

In 1923 at the age of thirty-nine, Taylor had the best season of his career. He spent the first part of the season with the Toledo Tigers and hit .427 with a .707 slugging percentage before moving to the St. Louis Stars for the rest of the year. His combined numbers for both teams were a .372 batting average and a .712 slugging percentage. His twenty (20) homeruns were a career high and tied him for the league lead with Oscar “Heavy” Johnson of the Kansas City Monarchs.

Candy Jim Taylor returned to St. Louis to manage the Stars for the 1924 Negro National League season. During the 1924 season, Taylor managed the team, played third base and was the team’s leading hitter. Candy Jim hit .323 with a .423 slugging percentage for the season. Mitchell Murray (.327), Willie Bobo (.314), Branch Russell (.304), Willie Wells (.304) and James “Cool Pappa” Bell (.289) were the team’s other leading hitters. The Stars pitching staff was anchored by Roosevelt Davis (11-3), Bill Ross (8-10), Fred “Lefty” Bell (7-7), Slap Hensley (4-1) and James “Cool Pappa” Bell (3-1). The St. Louis Stars finished the season with a record of 42-34 (.553) which left them in fourth place in the final “league” standings. The Kansas City Monarchs won the Negro National League championship with a record of 55-22 (.714)

When the 1925 baseball season opened for play, St. Louis fans had high hopes for the Stars. During the season, Candy Jim gave up his third base position to Dewey Creacy so he could concentrate more on managing than playing. The change of priority for Taylor worked. The St. Louis Stars started off strong and got even stronger as the season progressed. The Kansas City Monarchs won the first half of the season and the St. Louis Stars won the second half of the 1925 Negro National League season with a record of 38-12 (.760). St. Louis finished the regular season with a record of 71-27 (.724). This was the best season Candy Jim Taylor had experienced up to this point in his managing career.

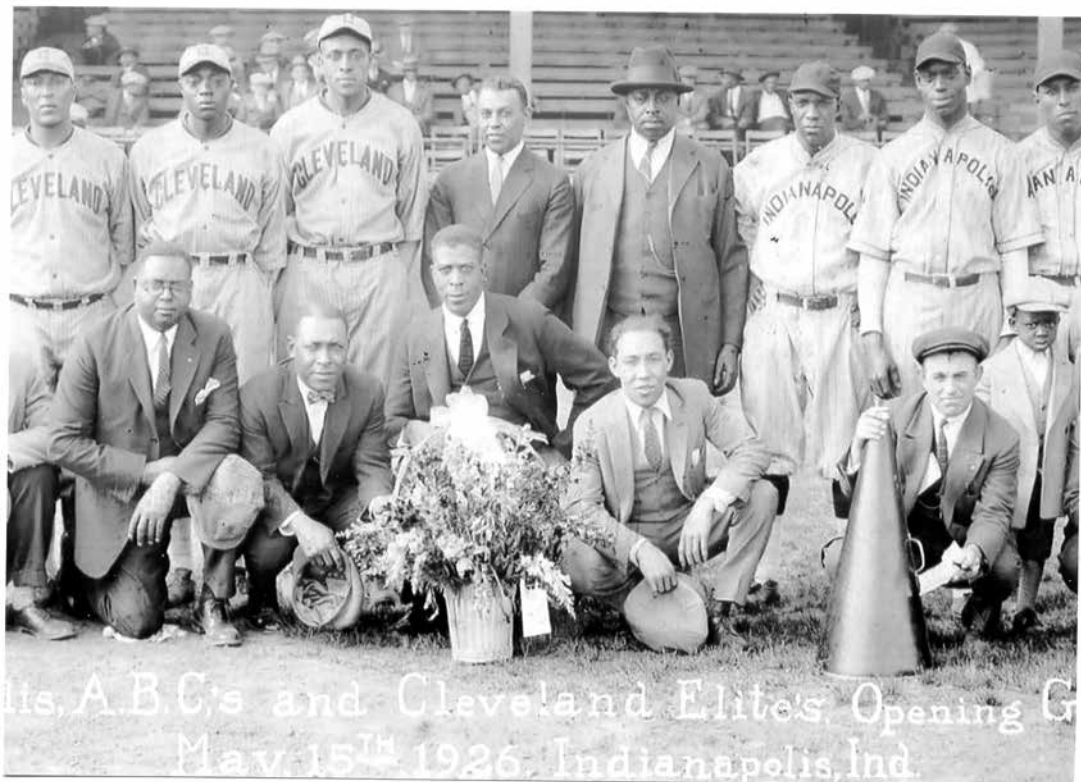
Taylor’s 1925 St. Louis Stars were led by the hitting of Mitch Murray (.366), Wilson “Frog” Redus (.335), Leonard “Willie” Bobo (.335), Dewey Creacy (.319), James “Cool Pappa” Bell

(.305), Charlie Blackwell (.299), John Barnes (.298) and Branch Russell (.290). Candy Jim used himself mainly as a pinch hitter during the season. In 40 at bats during the season, he got 11 hits for a .275 batting average. On July 26th one of Candy Jim's pinch hits broke up Sam Streeter's (Birmingham Black Barons) no-hitter with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning. According to research by John Holway, the Stars' starting pitching rotation included Roosevelt Davis (17-3), Percy Miller (12-2), Slap Hensley (11-3) and William Ross (11-7). The 1925 season was the first time in Taylor's managerial career that he got both good hitting and good pitching from his team in the same season.

After the regular 1925 season, the St. Louis Stars met the Kansas City Monarchs in a seven game Play-Off Series for the Negro National League championship. Led by Bullet Rogan (4-0 on the mound and .422 batting average for the series), the Monarchs defeated the Stars four games to three and went on to defeat Hilldale (Eastern Colored League) in the Negro League World Series.

For some unknown reason, Candy Jim Taylor did not return to the St. Louis Stars in 1926. Taylor instead went to Cleveland to manage the Cleveland Elites for the 1926 Negro National League season. Figuring out why Candy Jim would leave an excellent team like the St. Louis Stars to manage a start-up team in Cleveland is somewhat of a mystery. There are two distinct possibilities. Option one is that he may have been fired or not given a contract by St. Louis management because they had lost their Play-Off Series with the Kansas City Monarchs. This does not seem very likely. A more plausible story is that Sam Shepard, owner of the Cleveland franchise, made Taylor an offer he couldn't refuse and Candy Jim seemed to love a challenge.

When Sam Shepard was awarded his franchise for the 1926 Negro National League season, he made a trip through the South to scout and sign players. His first stop was to meet with Candy Jim Taylor and sign him to manage the team. Candy Jim brought three St. Louis Stars players with him to Cleveland. These players were John Barnes (C), Finis Branham (P) and Eddie Watts (2B). Shepard signed six more players on his trip through Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee.



Cleveland Elites vs Indianapolis ABC's
Opening Day – May 15, 1926

The Cleveland Elites played their home games at Hooper Field. The team never got untracked during the 1926 season. The Elites opened the season in Indianapolis on May 15th against the Indianapolis ABC's.

They were just horrible on the field. At 42 years of age, Candy Jim was the leading hitter on the team with a .351 batting average. The next three most productive hitters were John Hamilton (.314), William Spearman (.310) and Smith "Tack" Summers (.289). After these four players, no one really produced offensively. As weak as the hitters were, the pitching staff was significantly worse. The Cleveland Elites pitching staff included John Johnson (3-10), Grover Alexander (2-6), Finis Branham (0-4) and Squire Moore (0-3).

By mid-season only five players (three of them pitchers) were left from the Elites' opening day roster. With the team playing so poorly, Cleveland ownership decided at mid-season to dismantle and rebuild the entire team. In late July, Taylor left Cleveland and went to Detroit to manage the Detroit Stars. Frank Duncan took over running the team. He replaced all of the infield and most of the outfield, as the Cleveland Elites continued their losing ways. The Cleveland Elites dropped out of the league before the season ended. Their won-loss record of 7-41 (.146) was the worst in the "league" for the 1926 season. According to the Cleveland Gazette the Elites fared significantly better against the independent and semi-pro teams they played in the Cleveland area.

The Detroit Stars were owned by Detroit clothier John Roesink and played their home games at Mack Park which Roesink also owned. The Detroit Stars started the season with a loss to the Dayton Marcos on May 25th and then went on a hot streak. The team did not lose another game for the next three weeks. Their 17 game winning streak put them at the top of the "league" standings. The Detroit Stars finished the first half of the season with a record of 34-17 (.667) and in second place behind the Kansas City Monarchs (35-12). The Detroit Stars started off slowly during the second half of the season and Detroit management felt bringing Candy Jim Taylor in as the manager would get the team back on track. Detroit finished the second half of the season with a record of 16-25 (.390). Detroit's overall season record of 50-42 (.543) put them in fourth place in the final "league" standings.

The top hitters for the Detroit Stars for the 1926 season were Turkey Stearnes (.387 with 19 homeruns), Johnny Jones (.319), Ed "Huck" Rile (.318), Harry Kenyon (.310), Charlie Blackwell (.294), Orville Riggins (.294) and Edgar Wesley (.290 with 16 homeruns). Detroit's top pitchers during the season were Andy "Lefty" Cooper (13-10), Lewis Hampton (10-11), Fred Bell (7-3) and Hal "Yellow Horse" Morris (6-7).

At forty-two (42) years of age, Candy Jim had an excellent season at the plate for the Cleveland Elites and Detroit Stars in 1926. His combined hitting statistics for both teams were 28 hits in 78 at bats for a .359 batting average.

After his disastrous season in Cleveland and Detroit in 1926, Taylor returned to St. Louis to manage the Stars for the 1927 Negro National League season. Willie Wells (.339), Wilson "Frog" Redus (.336), Wade Johnston (.333), James "Cool Pappa" Bell (.314), Brach Russell (.312) and Dewey Creacy (.296) were the leading hitters for St. Louis for the season. George "Mule" Suttles was hitting .493 in 67 at bats when he got beamed by Chet Brewer (Kansas City Monarchs) and missed most of the rest of the season. The St. Louis Stars were an excellent hitting team. Research by John Holway showed that the pitching staff was led by Ted Trent (15-11), Luther McDonald (12-4), Roosevelt Davis (10-10), John Williams (8-2) and Tomlini Harrison (7-2).

Candy Jim played only sparingly in the field during the 1927 season. But when he played he produced. He collected 15 hits in 39 plate appearances for a .385 batting average. Four of his 15 hits went for doubles and this gave him a slugging percentage of .487.

The Stars finished the regular 1927 season with a 62-39 (.614) record. They finished in third place in the final “league” standings behind the Chicago American Giants (62-30) and the Kansas City Monarchs (54-29).

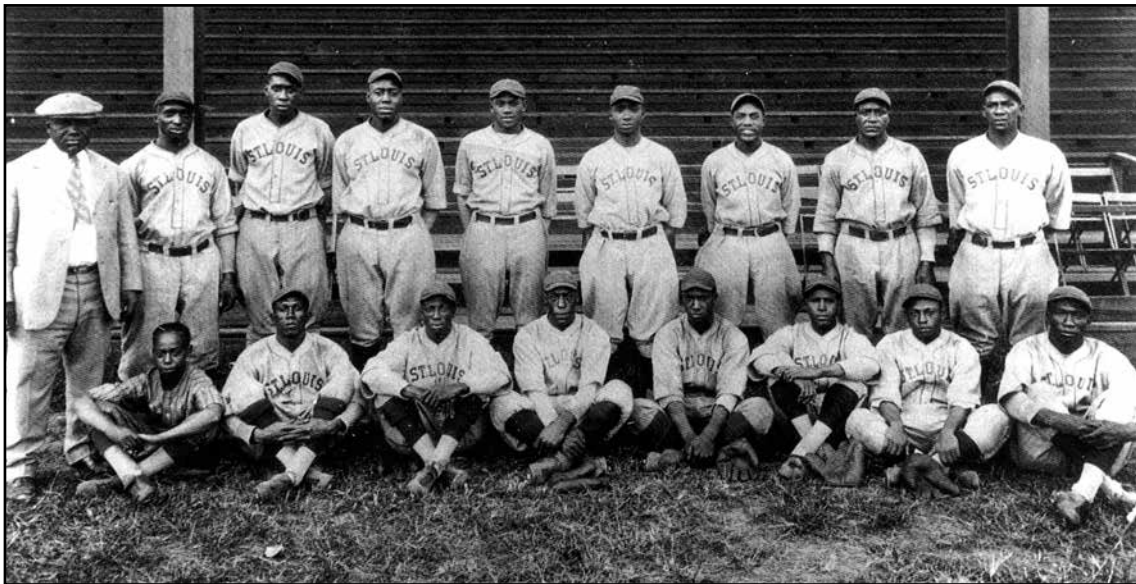
Taylor Brings a Championship to St. Louis

When the 1928 baseball season started, St. Louis fans had high expectations for the Stars after their strong showing in 1927. Candy Jim’s team did not disappoint them. From the very start of the season through the last game, the Stars got both phenomenal hitting and pitching. Only one player in the starting line-up failed to hit above .300 for the season. The Stars also had three players in the line-up that hit 20 homeruns for the season. This feat was virtually unheard of during this era of black baseball. St. Louis’ leading homerun hitters were Willie Wells (23), George “Mule” Suttles (20) and Wilson “Frog” Redus (20). The St. Louis Stars starting line-up and their batting averages for the 1928 season were as follows:

St. Louis Stars (1928)

Player	Position	Batting Average	Player	Position	Batting Average
George “Mule” Suttles	1B	.361	Robert “Spoony” Palm	C	.313
Johnny Russell	2B	.276	James “Cool Pappa” Bell	OF	.320
Willie Wells	SS	.365	Wilson “Frog” Redus	OF	.330
Dewey Creacy	3B	.327	Branch Russell	OF	.304
Henry Williams	C	.300			

Taylor’s playing time was limited primarily to pinch hitting. At 44 years of age Candy Jim collected 8 hits in 25 at bats for a .320 batting average.



St. Louis Stars (1928)
Negro National League Champions

(Back row – left to right **Candy Jim Taylor**, Clarence Palm, Ted Trent, **George “Mule” Suttles**, John Williams, Logan “Slap” Hensley, **Willie Wells**, Henry Williams, A.D. “Dewey” Creacy)

(Front row – left to right Norman James, John Russell, **James “Cool Pappa” Bell**, Branch Russell, Richard Cannon, Roosevelt Davis, **Wilson “Frog” Redus** and Luther McDonald)

Candy Jim's pitching staff was just as remarkable as the hitters for the 1928 season. Ted Trent was the ace of the staff and had the best season of his career with a won-loss record of 20-4 (.833). Other pitchers who had exceptionally good years were Logan "Slap" Hensley (13-5), Roosevelt Davis (11-1) and Luther McDonald (11-6). Ted Trent was the leading pitcher in the Negro National League during the 1928 season.

The St. Louis Stars had one of the best seasons in the team's history. They went 32-8 (.800) for the first half of the season and 34-18 (.654) during the second half of the year. The final Negro National League standings for the 1928 season were as follows:

Negro National League (1928)

Team	Games	Won-Loss	Pct.	Standing
St. Louis Stars	92	66-26	.717	1 st
Kansas City Monarchs	81	50-31	.617	2 nd
Chicago American Giants	91	54-37	.593	3 rd
Detroit Stars	91	54-37	.593	3 rd
Birmingham Black Barons	98	44-54	.449	5 th
Memphis Red Sox	78	30-48	.385	6 th
Cleveland Tigers	72	19-53	.264	7 th
Cuban Stars (West)	49	12-37	.245	8 th

The St. Louis Stars won the first half of the season and the Chicago American Giants won the second half of the season. The two teams met in a nine game Play-Off Series that started on September 22nd in Chicago. Game one was won by the American Giants. Victories went back and fourth with St. Louis winning game eight on October 4th to tie the series at four games apiece. Game nine was played the following day in St. Louis. Behind Willie Wells' two homeruns and a strong pitching performance from Ted Trent, the St. Louis Stars won the deciding game by a score of 9-2. The Stars had defeated the American Giants five games to four to claim the Negro National League title. James "Cool Papa" Bell led the Stars in hitting with a .407 (11 for 27) batting average and five different St. Louis Stars pitchers each picked a victory on the mound. Candy Jim Taylor had brought a pennant to St. Louis. There was no Negro League World Series played in 1928. A summary of the Negro National League Play-Off Series for 1928 is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Chicago	Sept 22 nd	Chicago	7-3	Bill Foster	John Williams
2	Chicago	Sept 23 rd	Chicago	3-0	Willie Powell	Ted Trent
3	Chicago	Sept 24 th	St. Louis	6-4	Slap Hensley	Harold Treadwell
4	Chicago	Sept 25 th	St. Louis	5-4	Luther McDonald	Bill Foster
5	St. Louis	Sept 29 th	Chicago	5-3	Bill Foster	Slap Hensley
6	St. Louis	Sept 30 th	St. Louis	12-7	John Williams	Bob Miller
7	St. Louis	Oct 2 nd	Chicago	9-7	Harold Treadwell	John Williams
8	St. Louis	Oct 4 th	St. Louis	19-4	Slap Hensley	Harold Treadwell
9	St. Louis	Oct 5 th	St. Louis	9-2	Ted Trent	Bill Foster

Taylor was back in St. Louis for the start of the 1929 Negro National League season to help the Stars defend their title. The St. Louis Stars had an excellent season in 1929. They posted a won-loss record of 59-33 (.641). Unfortunately for the Stars the Kansas City Monarchs played lights out baseball all season long and fueled by a 34-6 (.850) record for the second half of the season, the Kansas City Monarchs easily won the Negro National League championship with a record of 62-17 (.785). The St. Louis Stars (59-33) finished in second place and the Chicago American Giants (49-40) were a distant third. During the regular season, the St. Louis Stars were led by the hitting of Robert "Spoony" Palm (.386), Willie Wells (.356 with 19 homeruns), George "Mule" Suttles (.349), Branch Russell (.349), Henry Williams (.318) and Wilson "Frog" Redus (.303). Candy Jim Taylor got solid pitching during the year from John Williams (19-7), Slap Hensley

(14-6) and Ted Trent (12-8). Former St. Louis Stars ace Roosevelt Davis (6-11) was the only disappointment of the season for the Stars.

The 1929 Negro National League season proved very difficult for owners. Players, managers, owners and fans were beginning to question the fate of Negro League baseball in the United States. When asked about his perspective of the state of Negro League baseball, Candy Jim Taylor was quoted as follows:

“ The season of 1929 was the poorest from the standpoints of both playing and attendance since the beginning of the National League in 1920, mainly because no club in the league was able to put a club on the field each day in condition to play.”

In a public statement that appeared in the national newspapers in 1929, Candy Jim pointed out the following problems with Negro League baseball.

1. Club owners failed to cooperate in the establishment of ball clubs in each city.
2. Limiting the number of men a team can carry to 14 is bad.
3. Umpires who do not give fair decisions and are paid by the club instead of the league.
4. Dirty parks and unclean players uniforms
5. Failure of the clubs to give their team good publicity.

For some unknown reason Candy Jim Taylor did not return to St. Louis for the 1930 season but instead signed with the Memphis Red Sox. Dr. J.B. Martin and Dr. B.B. Martin owned the Memphis Red Sox. The Martin brothers also owned Martin Stadium where the Red Sox played their home games and a hotel next door where opposing teams could stay. Both J.B. and B.B. Martin recognized Taylor's success in St. Louis and hoped to bring that same level of play to Memphis. The team did improve under Taylor. They had a record of 19-44 (.302) for the 1929 season and under Candy Jim's guidance they won 10 more ball games than the year before. The Memphis Red Sox posted a record of 29-45 (.392) which put them in sixth place in the final 1930 Negro National League standings. Candy Jim's old team, the St. Louis Stars, won the championship with a record of 66-22 (.750).

BASEBALL
Thursday, September 3
S P. M. Athletic Field
ST. LOUIS STARS
Negro Champions
vs
INDIANAPOLIS A B C
Most expensive attraction ever staged in Moberly, featuring Leroy Mallock, Moberly's native son—Premier South Paw of the St. Louis World Champions will pitch against Brown, star North Paw of Indianapolis. Mule Suttles, negro Babe Ruth—Wells, best negro ss. in baseball—Creacy, 3-b strongest throwing arm in bo. —Bell, dean of all negro cf, said by John J. McGraw to be worth \$75,000 — Jim Taylor, dean of negro ob. Mgrs., will present the following star players—Murray, catcher—Reinder 3b—Terry 2b and the ever dependable Mitchell, pitcher.
Grand Stand 75c Box Seats 90c
Box seats on sale at Star Pool Hall and at Ruffell's Drug Store

Unfortunately for Taylor he didn't have the hitting or pitching in Memphis that he had left behind in St. Louis. Herman "Jabbo" Andrews (.359), Jimpsey Roussell (.328) and Nat Rogers were the team's top hitters. Roussell was the only one of the three that was with the team for the entire season. Even at 46 years of age, Candy Jim got up to bat 27 times in 1930 and collected 7 hits for a .259 batting average. Memphis starting rotation included Harry Salmon (11-9), Sug Cornelius (7-9), Cliff Bell (6-10) and Murray Gillespie (6-6).

Prior to the start of the 1931 season, Candy Jim Taylor recruited several players to go with him to Indianapolis. Taylor's plan was to resurrect the Indianapolis ABC's and have the team play in the Negro National League. Among the players that Taylor brought with him to Indianapolis were Herman "Jabbo" Andrews (.324), John Williams (.307), Jimmie Crutchfield (.291) and John Russell (.282). George "Hooks" Mitchell (14-3), Ray brown (11-8), Alto Lane (8-4) and Tom Parker (5-3) were the leading pitchers for the ABC's.

Indianapolis ABC's vs St. Louis Stars
Moberly Monitor Index
Moberly, MO
09-02-31

The Indianapolis ABC's opened their 1931 Negro National League schedule against the Chicago American Giants on May 3rd and took all three games by the scores of 13-5, 7-4 and 7-5. Candy's version of the ABC's competed with his old team, the St. Louis Stars, all season long for the championship title. They finished the Negro National League in second place with a 29-24 (.547) record against Negro National League" teams. Research by Paul DeBano as published in his book The Indianapolis ABC's credits the ABC'S with a record of 37-17-1 (.690) and Negro League researcher John Holway has Indianapolis with a won-loss record of 43-20 (.683). The St. Louis Stars took the Negro National League title with a record of 45-11 (.804).

When the 1932 baseball season started, there was no Negro National League. Taylor's response was to move the Indianapolis ABC's to the Negro Southern League. The ABC's opened the season in a new 14,500 seat ball park (Perry Stadium). Other than Connie Day and Herman "Jabbo" Andrews, Taylor opened the season with basically a "no-name" line-up. Under Taylor's guidance, Indianapolis played competitive ball the entire season. Joe Scott (.354), Jack Jackson (.344) and John Williams (.294) were the top three hitters for the ABC's. The leading pitchers for Indianapolis were Samuel "Sad Sam" Thompson (11-6), Irvin Waddy (7-3), Lefty Smart (6-6) and Slap Hensley (3-2)

Research by John Holway credits the Indianapolis ABC's with an overall record of 34-27 (.541) for the 1932 season. According to Holway, the Nashville Elites won the first half of the 1932 season, the Chicago American Giants won the second half of the season and the Indianapolis ABC's came in fourth in the final "league" standings.

Negro National League is Re-organized

On January 10, 1933 a meeting was held in Chicago (IL) to reorganize the Negro National League. Attending the meeting were Cumberland Posey (Homestead Grays), Gus Greenlee (Pittsburgh Crawfords), Robert Cole (Cole's Chicago American Giants), Benjamin Mason (Cleveland), Tom Wilson (Nashville Elite Giants) and Candy Jim Taylor (Indianapolis ABC's). The initial teams in the "new" Negro National League were the Baltimore Black Sox, Cole's American Giants, Columbus Blue Birds, Indianapolis ABC's, Nashville Elite Giants and the Pittsburgh Crawfords.

Candy Jim Taylor started the season as the manager of the Indianapolis ABC's. On opening day of the season, Indianapolis played the Chicago American Giants at Perry Stadium. After discounting ticket prices, only 1,100 fans showed up for the game and Candy Jim knew that the survival of his team in Indianapolis was in jeopardy. By mid-May the Indianapolis ABC's had disbanded. All of the team's players, equipment, team bus and even their won-loss record were assumed by the Detroit Stars. The transfer took place between May 8th when the ABC's lost to the Pittsburgh Crawfords and May 14th when the Detroit Stars played the Columbus Blue Birds

The 1933 Detroit Stars were owned by Walter Norwood who also owned the Norwood Hotel in Detroit. The Detroit Stars were a weak hitting team with no pitching. Only two regular players on the team, William Gill (.346) and John Williams (.333), hit over .300 for the season. Also on the Stars' roster was a young rookie by the name of Ray Dandridge. According to Dandridge, Candy Jim Taylor was instrumental in developing him as a ball player. Columbus Vance (8-7), Slap Hensley (6-3) and Percy "Bill" Bailey (4-1) were the team's best pitchers.

Sometime about mid-season, Candy Jim, rookie Ray Dandridge and ace starting pitcher Percy "Bill" Bailey moved from the Detroit Stars to the Nashville Elite Giants. Tom Wilson, local night club operator, owned the Nashville Elite Giants and Wilson Park where the Elite Giants played their home games. The leading hitters for the Elite Giants during the 1933 season were Tommy Dukes (.345), Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright (.337), Sammy Hughes (.316) and Felton Snow (.307). Percy Miller (10-2), Bill Bailey (6-3) and Howard Wright (5-4) anchored Nashville's pitching staff.



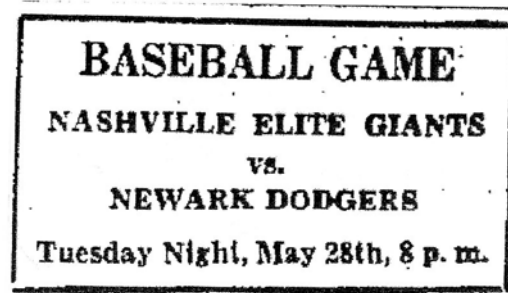
Nashville Elite Giants vs Cincinnati Tigers
Sulphur Dell Ball Park
Nashville, TN
August 1933

Lack of fan support made it impossible for Tom Wilson to keep his team in Nashville. The team started out the 1935 season still promoting themselves as the Nashville Elite Giants while Wilson looked for a new city. By June the team had relocated to Detroit (MI), but could not secure a lease on Hamtramck Stadium or any other suitable field for their home games. Therefore, they were on the move again. Their next stop was Columbus (OH). During the 1935 season, the Elite Giants were led by the hitting of Leroy Morney (.400), Roy "Red" Parnell (.337), Zollie Wright (.315) and Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright (.292). Jim "Cannonball" Willis

With Candy Jim at the helm of the team during the second half of the season, the Elite Giants posted a won-loss record of 17-9 (.650). They tied the Pittsburgh Crawfords as the winners of the second half of the Negro National League season. Nashville then lost a three game Play-Off Series to Pittsburgh for the opportunity to play for the Negro National League championship. The Nashville Elite Giants finished the season with an overall record of 29-22 (.570) for fifth place in the final Negro National League standings.

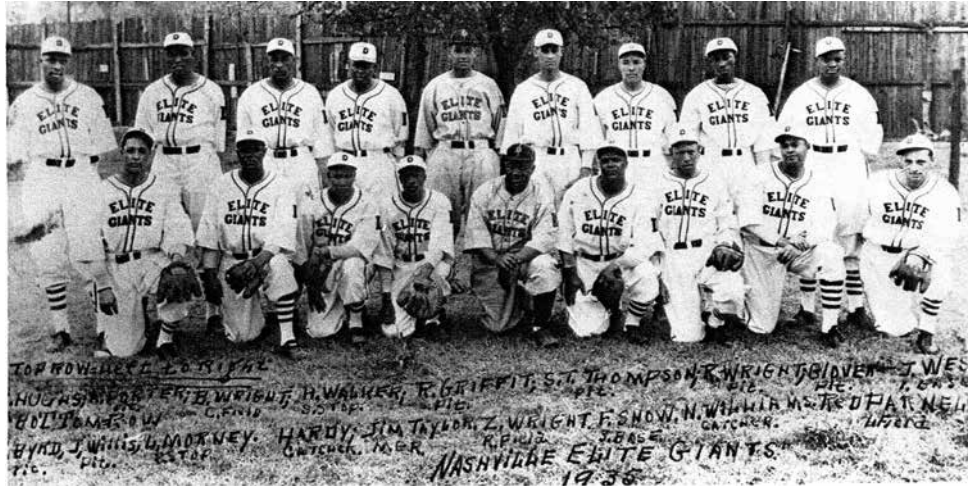
On September 10, 1933, the first East-West All Star game was played. The event was held at Comiskey Park in Chicago (IL) with 19,568 fans attending the inaugural event. The game featured an all star team representing the Eastern teams of the Negro National League against a team of all stars representing the Western teams. Candy Jim Taylor was selected to manage the West squad. Backed by a fifteen hit attack with six players getting two hits each and Mule Suttles' homerun and three runs batted in, the West outlasted the East in an 11-7 slugfest.

After a successful second half of the season with the Nashville Elite Giants in 1933, Candy Jim returned to Nashville to manage the Elite Giants for the 1934 Negro National League season. The Nashville Elite Giants had a decent season especially when you take into consideration that Candy Jim did not have a strong hitting starting line-up. Only Felton Snow (.313) hit over .300 for the season. Nish Williams (.298), Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright (.296) and Sam Bankhead (.292) were the other top hitters on the team. Andy Pullman Porter (9-6) was the ace of the pitching staff. Current research indicates that the Nashville Elite Giants posted a record of 17-18 (.486) for the 1934 season. Nashville finished in fourth place in the "league."



05-26-35

was the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 5-1. Columbus also had several other good pitchers in Bill Byrd, Bob Griffith and Andy Porter. The Columbus Elite Giants finished the 1935 Negro National League season with a record of 28-21 (.571) and in second place in the final “league” standings. The Pittsburgh Crawfords (42-15) easily won the Negro National League title.



Nashville-Detroit-Columbus Elite Giants (1935)
(Taylor – kneeling front row fifth from right)

Taylor Returns to the California Winter League

Candy Jim Taylor returned to California in 1935 when he managed Tom Wilson’s Royal Giants team during the 1935-36 California Winter League season. Three other “white” teams (Pirrone’s All Stars, Santa Monica Merchants and White King Soapsters) also competed in the league. The Royal Giants were loaded with talent and other than Felton Snow and Biz Mackey everyone on the roster hit the entire winter. The starting lineup for the Royal Giants and their batting averages for the 1935-36 California Winter League season were:

Wilson’s Royal Giants (1935-36)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Jim West	.510	C	Raleigh “Biz” Mackey	.250
2B	Sammy Hughes	.391	OF	Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright	.426
SS	Felton Snow	.224	OF	Norman “Turkey” Stearnes	.381
3B	George “Mule” Suttles	.298	OF	Zollie Wright	.382

The Royal Giants compiled a team batting average of .360 (169 for 474) for the winter league season. Mule Suttles (11 HR) and Sammy Hughes (6 HR) led the team in homeruns.

The pitching duo of Satchel Paige (13-0) and Bob Griffith (7-0) were unhittable and between the two of them, they did not lose a game the entire season. Paige also had 113 strikeouts in a mere 94 innings pitched and pitched four shut outs.

The Wilson’s Royal Giants started the season strong and never let up. They walked away with the 1935-36 California Winter League championship with a record of 23-6-2 (.793).

Elite Giants Find another “New” Home

Financially Columbus had been a disappointment for team owner Tom Wilson. Before the start of the 1936 season Wilson’s goal was to find another new home for the Elite Giants. Like the year before, Wilson’s team promoted themselves as the Nashville Elite Giants at the start of the year while Wilson looked for a new city to which to relocate. Washington, D.C. seemed to be the best option for Wilson for the 1936 campaign. For the fourth time in just over two seasons, the Elite Giants were calling a “new” city home.

The Washington Elite Giants got off to a good start to the 1936 Negro National League season and finished the first half of the season in first place with a won-loss record of 14-10 (.583). The team collapsed in the second half of the season. They went 7-14 in the second half of the season and finished the year with a record of 21-24 (.467) which left them in fourth place in the final Negro National League standings.

Taylor had a good hitting team in 1936 that included Jesse “Hoss” Walker (.385), Jim West (.359), Burnis “Wild Bill” Wright (.330), Zollie Wright (.309), Homer “Goose” Curry (.307), Sammy Hughes (.297) and Raleigh “Biz” Mackey (.290). Bill Byrd (10-5) and Bob Griffith (8-4) were Candy Jim’s best two pitchers during the season.

Candy Jim was selected as a coach for the East squad for the 1936 East-West All Star game that was played on August 23rd in Comiskey Park (Chicago, IL).



East-West All Star Game (1936)
(Taylor – middle row kneeling first on right)

Negro National League All Stars and the Denver Post Tournament

After the conclusion of the 1936 regular Negro National League season, Gus Greenlee, the owner of the Pittsburgh Crawfords, assembled an all-star team of players from the Pittsburgh Crawfords, Homestead Grays and Washington Elite Giants. The team was named the Negro National League All Stars and included five future National Baseball Hall of Famers (James “Cool Papa” Bell, Ray Brown, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard and Satchel Paige). Greenlee named Candy Jim Taylor as the manager of the team. The primary reason for putting the team together was to have them barnstorm to Denver to play in the prestigious Denver Post Tournament. Newspaper accounts

indicate that the Negro National League All Stars had a very successful barnstorming trip to Denver as they destroyed their opponents all along the way. This was witnessed best in Des Moines (IA) when they routed their opponent by a score of 17-0. Once the team got to Denver and started tournament play, the Negro National League All Stars breezed through the competition. In one three game stretch they scored 27 runs and only gave up 2 runs. The Negro National League All Stars won all seven of their games and were crowned the Denver Post Tournament Champions.

The Negro National League All Stars returned to Denver in October of 1936 and played a double header against a team of Major League All Stars that included Rogers Hornsby. Candy Jim's team won both games by the scores of 6-3 and 6-4.

Royal Giants in California

After their success in the California Winter League during the 1935-36 season, Candy Jim Taylor brought the Royal Giants back to the West Coast to play in the 1936-37 California Winter League. The league expanded to six teams for the 1936-37 season. The other five teams (all of whom were "white") in the league were as follows: San Diego Merchants, Pirrone's All Stars, May Company, White Kings and the Santa Monica Merchants.

The Royal Giants made White Park in Los Angeles (CA) their home field for the 1936-37 winter season. Other than a double header loss to the Pirrone's All Stars by the scores of 8-5 and 5-1, the Royal Giants dominated their opponents the entire season. Candy Jim's Royal Giants ended the season with a won-loss record of 21-7-1 (.750) and easily won their second straight California Winter League championship title. The leading hitters for the Royal Giants during the season were: Ray Morney (.519), Sammy Hughes (.500) and James "Cool Pappa" Bell (.474). Bob Griffith (10-2) and Chet Brewer (6-0) anchored the Royal Giants' pitching staff.

Candy Jim Becomes a Chicago American Giant

On February 20th and 21st a meeting was held in Chicago (IL) to award franchises for the newly formed Negro American League. The initial eight teams and the standings for the first half of the inaugural Negro American League season are:

Negro American League (1937)

Team	Games	Record	Pct.	Standing
Kansas City Monarchs	27	19-8	.704	1 st
Chicago American Giants	26	18-8	.692	2 nd
Cincinnati Tigers	26	15-11	.577	3 rd
Memphis Red Sox	26	13-13	.500	4 th
Detroit Stars	27	12-15	.444	5 th
Birmingham Black Barons	27	10-17	.370	6 th
Indianapolis Athletics	27	9-18	.333	7 th
St. Louis Stars	27	5-22	.185	8 th

Horace G. Hall had just finished his first season (1936) as the owner of the Chicago American Giants when he was awarded a franchise for the newly formed Negro American League. The Chicago American Giants played their home games at South Side Park (American Giants Park). Publically Hall was very vocal about the Chicago American Giants being a contender for the league championship from the very start of the 1937 season. To accomplish this goal, Hall thought finding the best possible manager would be a key and Candy Jim Taylor was his first choice.

The first thing Candy Jim did was bring in several new players that included Luther Gillyard (1B), Ted Bond (2B), Newt Allen (2B/SS), Paul Hardy (C), Zack Clayton (1B), Cliff Blackman

(P), Porter Moss (P) and Bill Foster (P). Taylor also convinced Jack Marshall (2B) to return to Chicago after a year with the Philadelphia Stars. Before the start of the season Candy Jim had a totally new starting infield that included Luther Gillyard (1B), Jack Marshall (2B), Ted Bond (SS) and Alec Radcliffe (3B).

With a weak hitting line-up, Candy Jim focused on pitching, defense, running the bases and not making mental errors. Subby Byas (.292) and Luther Gillyard (.284) were the team's top two hitters. Chicago did get excellent pitching during the 1937 season. The pitching staff was led by the duo of Ted Trent (8-2 w/ 2.08 ERA) and Sug Cornelius (8-4 w/ 2.43 ERA). Trent and Cornelius were two of the top four pitchers in the Negro American League for the 1937 season.

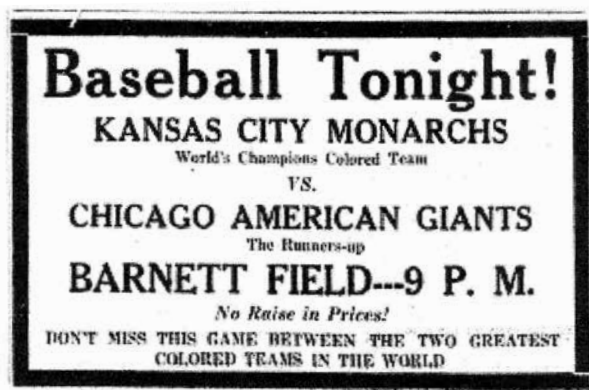
Candy Jim's "old school small ball" approach to baseball worked. Chicago started strong and played great baseball all season long. On June 22nd they were 42-17 (.712) for their first 59 games. In Negro American League games, the Chicago American Giants posted a won-loss record of 18-8 (.692) and were in second place for the first half of the Negro American League season. A newspaper article that appeared in The Milwaukee Journal on September 12th suggests that the Chicago American Giants won the second half of the season. When the season was over, the Kansas City Monarchs were initially awarded the Negro American League title. This decision was protested by Chicago and they were granted a Play-Off Series with Kansas City. The series was played in three neutral cities (Dayton, Indianapolis and Milwaukee). Originally there were to have been nine games but the series was shortened to five games. The Monarchs defeated the American Giants three games to one with one game ending in a tie.

According to research by Paul DeBano in his book The Chicago American Giants, the American Giants had a won-loss record of 36-15-1 (.710) against top level teams for the 1937 season.

In 1937 Candy Jim Taylor was selected as the manager for the West squad for the annual East-West All Star game. The game was played on August 8th at Comiskey Park in Chicago. A crowd of 25,000 fans saw Wild Bill Wright collect three hits for the East team and lead them to a 7-2 victory.

Instead of a Negro League World Series, a nine game "interleague" series was held after the regular season. The Kansas City Monarchs and Chicago American Giants combined to form one team to represent the West. Representing the East was a team of players chosen from the Homestead Grays and Newark Eagles. The series was won by the East (Homestead Grays and Newark Eagles team). The East squad won seven games to two games for the West.

By the time the 1938 season opened for play, the excitement of the formation of the Negro American had died down significantly. Candy Jim took the Chicago American Giants to Florida for spring training and then barnstormed through the South back to Chicago. The American Giants started off slow and finished the first half of the season with an 8-13 record. In response to their poor start, Candy Jim made several changes to the roster. Two of the top moves were bringing in Billy Simms to take over for Turkey Stearnes in centerfield and Rainey Bibbs was traded to Kansas City for Frank Duncan. Taylor's moves paid big dividends as the Chicago American Giants went 17-7 for the second half of the season. The Chicago American Giants were led in the field by Alec Radcliffe (3B) and Frank Duncan (C). Willie "Sug" Cornelius was the ace of the pitching staff with an 8-4 record in "league" games.



Chicago American Giants
vs
Kansas City Monarchs
07-13-38

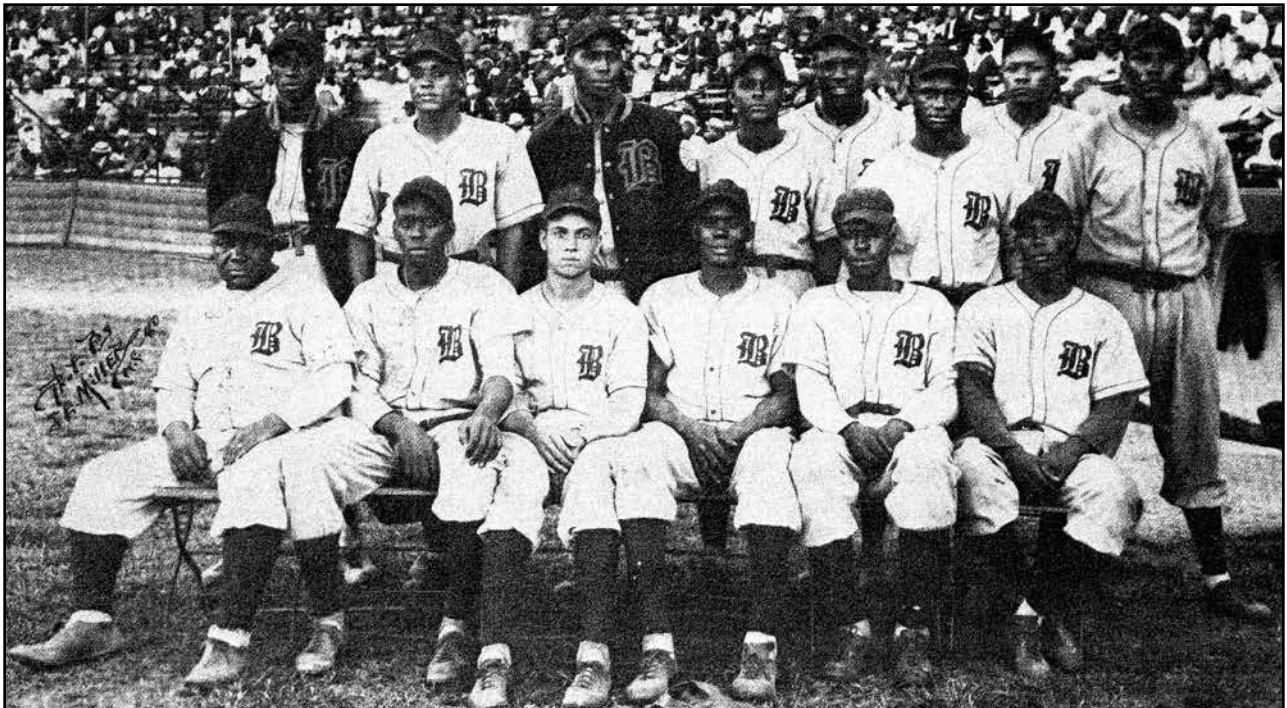
According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Capital Times of Madison (WI) in games against all levels of competition Sug Cornelius won 25 games and Ted Trent won 30 games for the 1938 season.

The highlight of the 1938 season for Chicago was a July barnstorming tour against the Kansas City Monarchs that took them all the way to Canada. Cities that the two teams played in the United States on the tour included Sioux City (IA), Bismarck (ND), Fargo (ND), St. Paul (MN), Crookston (MN) and Moorhead (MN). When the two teams got to Canada some of the cities and towns they played in were Winnipeg, Portage, Prairie, Brandon, Regina, Moose Jaw and Estevan. The two teams drew good crowds because they were the top two teams in the Negro American League during the 1937 season. Games played on the tour were counted in the Negro American League standings.

Chicago ended the 1938 season with a 25-20 (.556) record which left them in fourth place in the final Negro American League 1938 season standings.

Most of Chicago's veterans returned for the 1939 Negro American League season and Candy Jim was back at the helm as Chicago's manager. Over the off season, Taylor solved his catching problem by signing Lloyd "Pepper" Bassett as the team's starting catcher. Back in the starting line-up were Richard "Subby" Byas (OF), Herman Dunlop (OF), Billy Horne (2B), Alec Radcliffe (3B), Wilson "Frog" Redus (OF) and Edward "Pep" Young (1B). Like in years past, Willie "Sug" Cornelius was Chicago's number one pitcher. Tragedy struck the American Giants when Ted Trent who had been an integral part of the pitching staff for years died during the season.

Chicago started the 1939 season strong. According to newspaper reports, the American Giants promoted themselves as the "Champions of World Negro Baseball" and had won 80 % of their games as of June 14th. The Chicago American Giants went 23-16 (.590) for the 1939 Negro American League season and finished in second place behind the Kansas City Monarchs (28-14).

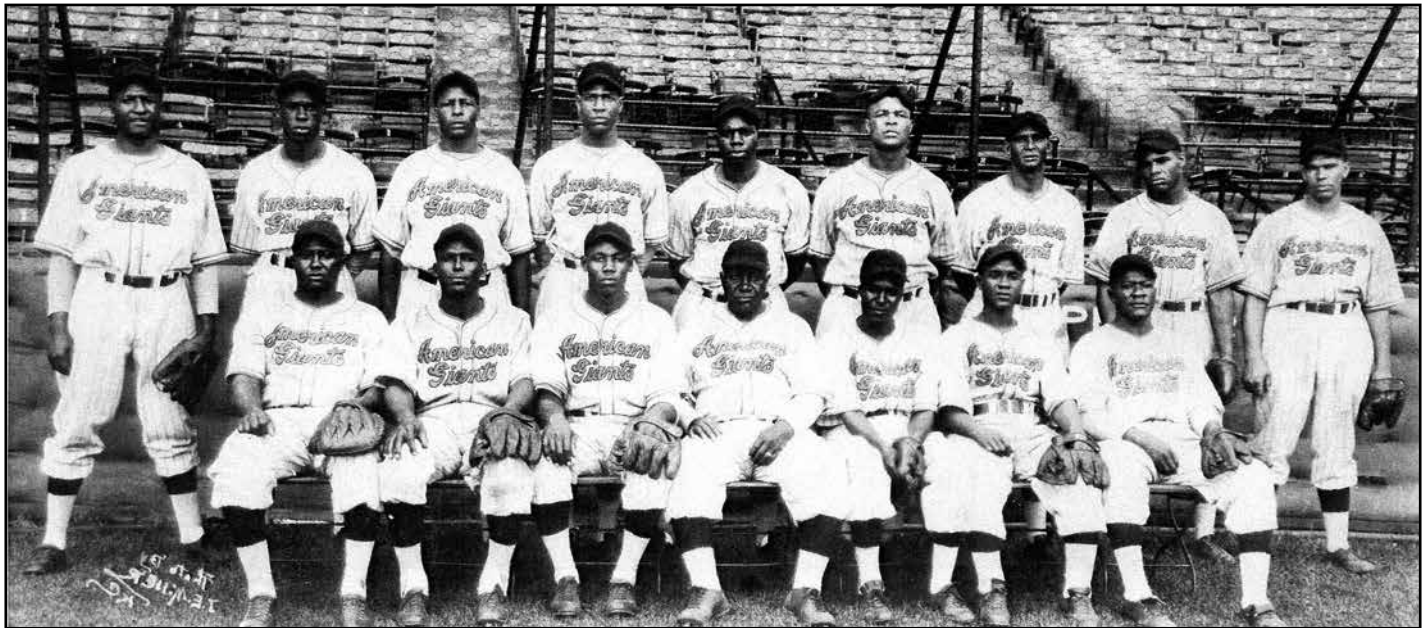


Birmingham Black Barons (1940)
(Taylor – seated first on left)

Before the start of the 1940 season, Candy Jim Taylor signed to manage the Birmingham Black Barons. Birmingham had been one of the original teams when the Negro American League was founded in 1937 but they had dropped out of the "league" in 1939 to play in the Negro Southern League. Tom Wilson, Memphis (TN) funeral home director and owner of the Black Barons, planned for his team to rejoin the Negro American League in 1940. He knew he needed to revamp the team and felt Candy Jim was the man for the job. The top players on the Black Barons during the 1940 season were Lyman Bostock (1B), Tommy Sampson (2B), Jack Bruton (3B), Paul Hardy (C), Bill Nixon (OF) and Parnell Woods (3B). The pitching staff included Ed Sneed, Gentry Jessup, Herman "Red" Howard and Frank Moody.

From the limited number of box scores that have been found, the Birmingham Black Barons had a record of 9-10 for the 1940 season.

The 1940 season had been disappointing for the Chicago American Giants. Besides a losing record under Frog Redus, the American Giants didn't even have a stadium for their home games. Horace Hall, the owner of the Chicago franchise, was faced with rebuilding the team and finding them a place to play. The first priority was to identify who was going to manage the team for the 1941 baseball season. Hall's solution was to convince Candy Jim Taylor to return to Chicago. Taylor accepted the job and then went about rebuilding the team. Sug Cornelius and Pepper Bassett returned from Mexico. Alec Radcliffe returned to the team from the Palmer House Indians. Ted Alexander and Jimmie Crutchfield were signed. In addition two new key players (Gentry Jessup and Art Pennington) were added to the team. Before the start of the season, the Chicago American Giants signed a lease to play several home games at Comiskey Park. Unfortunately the lease rate for Comiskey Park was very high and that resulted in the American Giants spending the majority of the season on the road.



Chicago American Giants (1941)
(Taylor – seated fourth from right)

Jimmie Crutchfield, Art "Superman" Pennington and Alec Radcliffe were the top hitters for the Chicago American Giants in 1941. Ted Alexander, Sug Cornelius, Willie Ferrell, Alvin Gibson and Gentry Jessup made up the nucleus of the pitching staff.

One of the highlights of the 1941 season for Chicago was a game they played against the Kansas City Monarchs in Briggs Stadium in Detroit (MI). According to newspaper reports, the Monarchs 6-2 victory was seen by 39,500 fans. The Chicago American Giants finished the season in last

place in the Negro American League with a won-loss record of 9-12 (.429). The Kansas City Monarchs walked away with the 1941 Negro American League title with a record of 24-6 (.800).

The 1941 East-West All Star game was attended by 50,256 fans and played in Comiskey Park (Chicago, IL) on July 27th. Candy Jim was the manager of the West squad. The East team claimed an 8-3 victory in the game with Terris McDuffie getting the win and Hilton Smith taking the loss.

Taylor's 1942 Chicago American Giants team was truly perplexing. Chicago fielded a good hitting lineup but didn't get any pitching. The top hitters for Chicago were James "Cool Pappa" Bell (.356), Edward "Pep" Young (.350) and Jimmie Crutchfield (.277). The American Giants roster also included Herman "Jabbo" Andrews, Lester Lockett, Art Pennington, Alec Radcliffe. Normally reliable pitchers Willie "Sug" Cornelius (0-3), Samuel "Sad Sam" Thompson (0-3), Gentry Jessup (0-3) and Willie "Truehart" Ferrell (0-5) all failed to win even one "league" game.

Like the season before the Chicago American Giants rented Comiskey Park for a few home games, but spent most of the season on the road. The Chicago American Giants finished the season in last place in the Negro American League for the second straight year. Chicago apparently fared significantly better in "non-league" games. In ten box scores found by Paul Debaro and documented in his book The Chicago American Giants, Chicago had a 7-3 (.700) record against "non-league" opponents.

Back to Back Championships with the Homestead Grays

In 1943 the United States was in the midst of World War II. Besides players being lost to serve in the military, numerous players and managers took military defense jobs to help support the war effort. One of the biggest losses in Negro League baseball in the East was when Vic Harris had to give up his job as manager of the Homestead Grays to take a defense plant job. To fill the void created by Harris' temporary departure, Homestead brought in Candy Jim Taylor as the team's manager.



Homestead Grays (1943)

(Back row left to right – Edsall Walker, **James "Cool" Pappa" Bell**, Roy Partlow, Thad Christopher, **Josh Gibson**, John Wright, **Ray Brown**, Ernest Carter, **Walter "Buck" Leonard** and **Candy Jim Taylor**)

(Front row left to right – **Jud "Boojum" Wilson**, Jerry Benjamin, Joseph B. Spencer, **Vic Harris**, **Sam Bankhead** and Matthew "Lick" Carlisle)

The Homestead Grays were owned by Cumberland Posey and were the most dominant team in Negro League baseball during their day. In the past when Candy Jim went to a new team he was usually faced with a building process. The Homestead Grays were a completely different situation. Taylor inherited a star studded line-up with the 1943 Homestead Grays. The team's starting line-up was as follows:

Homestead Grays (1943)

Position	Player	* Batting Average	Position	Player	* Batting Average
1B	Walter "Buck" Leonard	.321/.295	C	Josh Gibson	.449/.486
2B	Jud Wilson	.327/.279	OF	James "Cool Papa" Bell	.297/.320
SS	Sam Bankhead	.483/.261	OF	Jerry Benjamin	.370/.367
3B	Howard Easterling	.399/.359	OF	Vic Harris	.298/.300

- The first set of season batting averages is from the research of John Holway and the second set of batting averages is from the research of Baseball Reference. The difference in the averages are due to the fact that the two researchers don't both have the same number of games and Holway also tends to include "non-league" games in his totals. Their totals may be different, but both agree the 1943 Homestead Grays were an excellent hitting team.

Coming off the bench Taylor's team had Thad Christopher (.371), Roy Partlow (.333), Robert Gaston (.310) and Eugene Jones (.306). It is interesting to note that while Vic Harris was not managing the club, he did get enough time off his defense plant job to play in a significant number of games for the Grays during the season. The pitching staff for Homestead was led by John Wright (18-5), Ray Brown (8-1), Edsall Walker (8-4), Charles Carter (8-1) and Willie Anderson (6-2). The 1943 Homestead Grays roster included five players (James Bell, Ray Brown, Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard and Jud Wilson) who would be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Homestead was supposed to hold their spring training at Akron (OH) but when the ball park in Akron was condemned, the Grays were forced to change their plans. With all the travel restrictions due to the War effort, the Homestead Grays took spring training at West Field in Homestead. The team started spring training by working out in a local junior high school gym until the weather permitted them to play outside.

The Grays opened the season by winning both games of a double header and won their next five games before taking their first loss of the season. Taylor's Homestead team played excellent baseball all season. The Grays dominated their "league" and "non-league" opponents all year. The Homestead Grays won both halves of the Negro National League season and claimed the "league" championship with a record of 44-15 (.746). During the season the Grays were virtually unbeatable at Griffith Stadium. They went 32-6 (.868) at their home field for the 1943 season. The Homestead Grays played the Birmingham Black Barons (Champions of the Negro American League) in the Negro League World Series. The 1943 Negro League World Series was truly a national event as the eight games were played in seven different cities (Baltimore, Birmingham, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Montgomery and Washington, D.C.).

Jim Taylor to Manage Wash. Grays

PHILADELPHIA

Rufus Jackson and the Posey brothers, Cum and S. H., owners of the Washington Homestead Grays, announced Saturday that James (Candy Jim) Taylor, veteran baseball pilot, will manage the Grays in 1943.

Taylor was with the Chicago American Giants last season in the Negro American League. He has been in baseball for nearly a quarter of a century and was honored last season with the managership of the West team in the annual East-West game. He is familiar with Eastern fans, having at one time piloted the Baltimore Elite Giants, when the Elites were playing out of Washington. Candy Jim is a member of one of baseball's oldest families. He is a brother of the immortal C. I. Taylor and Ben, the latter still active in the diamond game and most recently manager of the Edgewater Giants in Maryland.

Significantly, Taylor will be teamed with the 1942 veteran pilot of the Grays, Vic Harris, as he will be retained on the club.



Jim Taylor

A summary for the 1943 Negro League World Series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Washington, D.C.	Sept 21 st	Birmingham	4-2	Al Saylor	Johnny Wright
2	Baltimore	Sept 23 rd	Tie Game	5-5	-	-
3	Washington, D.C.	Sept 24 th	Homestead	4-3	Ray Brown	John Markham
4	Chicago	Sept 26 th	Homestead	9-0	Johnny Wright	Gread McKinnis
5	Columbus	Sept 28 th	Birmingham	11-10	Al Saylor	Roy Partlow
6	Indianapolis	Sept 29 th	Homestead	8-0	Johnny Wright	Gread McKinnis
7	Birmingham	Oct 3 rd	Birmingham	1-0	John Markham	Roy Partlow
8	Montgomery	Oct 5 th	Homestead	8-4	Ray Brown	Al Saylor

Homestead defeated Birmingham four games to three with one game ending in a tie. Candy Jim Taylor had led the Homestead Grays to another Negro League World Series championship.

Before the start of the 1944 Negro National League season, Candy Jim Taylor was forced to make several changes in his starting line-up. Gone from the starting line-up were Howard Easterling, Vic Harris, Jud Wilson and Johnny Wright. They were replaced by Norman Jackson (2B), Rev Cannady (3B), Dave Hoskins (OF) and Roy Welmaker (P). As always, the Homestead Grays were an excellent hitting team that scored a lot of runs. According to research by John Holway, the leading hitters for the 1944 Grays were Josh Gibson (.369), Rev Cannady (.356), Buck Leonard (.350), Sam Bankhead (.345) and Jerry Benjamin (.342). Backed by run support, the Grays' pitching staff flourished. Ray Brown (11-4), Roy Welmaker (8-0), Edsall Walker (7-4) and Ernest "Spoon" Carter (7-1) anchored the Grays' pitching staff.



Homestead Grays (1944)

(left to right – Jelly Jackson, Ray Battle, Ed Robinson, **Sam Bankhead**, **Josh Gibson**, Walter “Buck” Leonard, Dave Hoskins, Jerry Benjamin and **James “Cool Pappa” Bell**)

Homestead held their spring training in Dayton (OH) with the team rooming at the local YMCA. The Grays opened the season by winning both ends of a doubleheader against the New York Yankees. With World War II still in progress the government continued restrictions on travel. Baseball teams were limited to 700 miles a month for travel by bus. This meant most the season for the Homestead Grays was focused on playing in the Pittsburgh area.

Candy Jim Taylor managed his fourth East-West All Star team in 1944 when he was selected to manage the East team. The game was played at Comiskey Park in Chicago with 46,247 fans in attendance. Gentry Jessup pitched the West to a 7-4 win.

The Homestead Grays won both halves of the season in 1944 and for the second year in a row Candy Jim Taylor's Homestead team claimed the Negro National League title. They were 15-8 for the first half of the season and came on even stronger in the second half with a record of 12-4. Their overall Negro National League record for the 1944 season was 27-12 (.675). When "league" games are combined with other games played against teams of top level competition the Grays were 41-18 (.695).

Homestead faced the Birmingham Black Barons (champions of the Negro American League) in the Negro League World Series. The Grays had played the Black Barons the year before in the Negro League World Series and just like the year before they defeated their Negro American League rivals. The final outcome was that Homestead won four games to only one for Birmingham. A summary for the 1944 Negro League World Series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Birmingham	Sept 17 th	Homestead	8-3	Roy Welmaker	John Markham
2	New Orleans	Sept 19 th	Homestead	6-1	Edsall Walker	Al Saylor
3	Birmingham	Sept 21 st	Homestead	9-0	Ray Brown	Earl Bumpus
4	Pittsburgh	Sept 23 rd	Birmingham	6-0	John Huber	Spoon Carter
5	Washington, D.C.	Sept 24 th	Homestead	4-2	Roy Welmaker	Al Saylor

Jim Taylor Out as Grays' Pilot

NEW YORK—Candy Jim Taylor, manager of two world champion Homestead Gray teams, will not be with the defending titlists next season.

Final confirmation of the rumor that Taylor and the Grays were to part company, which has been in circulation since midsummer of 1944, came from Candy Jim himself following a conference with Posey, co-owner of the Grays, here last week.

Taylor declared that he will most likely accept an offer from the Chicago American Giants to manage that team in its quest of the 1945 Negro American League pennant.

While no successor to the venerable Candy Jim has as yet been named, it is a virtual certainty that the job will go to Vic Harris, former manager, whom Taylor followed in the pilot house when Harris left baseball in 1942 to take a defense job.

On the surface managing the Homestead Grays with their powerhouse roster might have seemed like a dream job, but Candy Jim had never had to manage a player as difficult as Josh Gibson. Candy Jim was a no nonsense manager with high standards of conduct. Gibson on the other hand had a variety of severe behavioral problems that included drinking (even in the dugout during games), mental instability, lack of motivation, continually overstepping the team rules and at one point refusing to play in spring training games. Josh reportedly always smelled of beer and was often referred to as "fat and lazy." Candy Jim tried everything from benching his star catcher to moving him down in the batting order. To make matters even worse, Taylor got no support from team owner Cumberland Posey in his attempts to control Gibson. In fairness to Candy Jim, no one could have or ever did handle Josh Gibson and all of his problems.

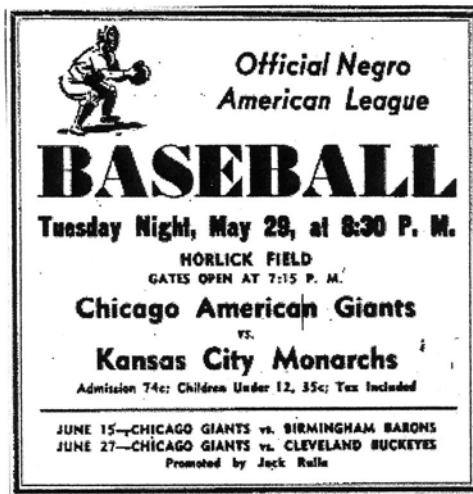
Even with all of the challenges with Gibson, Candy Jim Taylor won back to back Negro National League and Negro League World Series championships and the Homestead Grays were the best team in Negro League baseball.

Taylor Returns to Chicago

When Candy Jim took the job managing the Homestead Grays in 1943, he knew it was only temporary. Prior to the start of the 1945 season, Vic Harris returned from his job at the defense plant and was ready to resume his duties as manager of the Grays. That meant Taylor was free to return to the Chicago American Giants. This was Taylor's third tenure as the manager of the Chicago American Giants.

During the two seasons that Candy Jim was back East, the American Giants were managed by Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe in 1943 and by the trio of Bingo De Moss, Lloyd "Ducky" Davenport and John Bissant during the 1944 season. Radcliffe posted a won-loss record of 20-19 for the 1943 season. The Chicago American Giants had a losing record of 32-39 in 1944.

Like so many times in the past, Candy Jim Taylor was taking over a "bad" team with the need of rebuilding. He had basically the same roster as the American Giants team from 1944. Taylor did make several changes in how he utilized his roster. He also brought in Dolly King to play shortstop, made Herb Barnhill his number one catcher and had several players playing different positions than the year before.



Racine, WI
 05-24-45

Chicago opened its 1945 Negro American League season on May 27th in Comiskey Park against their arch rival the Kansas City Monarchs. Due to the high rental rate of Comiskey Park, the American Giants spent most of the season on the road playing in small cities like Benton Harbor (MI), Chester (PA), Kokomo (IN), Lebanon (PA) and Peru (IL). The American Giants players responded to Taylor's leadership. According to research by John Holway, Chicago had five hitters in their line-up that hit over .300 for the season. These players were Art "Superman" Pennington (.359), John Ford Smith (.320), John Bissant (.304), Jesse Douglas (.303) and Jimmie Crutchfield (.300). Taylor went with basically two starting pitchers during the season. Gentry Jessup was the ace of the staff with a 15-10 record. Gread "Lefty" McKinnis gave Jessup an occasional break now and then and finished the year with a 6-5 record.

Taylor's plan worked as the Chicago American Giants finished the 1945 season with a winning record of 39-35 (.527). Chicago finished the first half of the season in fourth place and the second half in second place. During the second half of the season, the American Giants had a fourteen game winning streak during late August and early September. The American Giants ended the year in third place behind the Cleveland Buckeyes (53-16) and the Birmingham Black Barons (39-30).

Disaster struck for Chicago in the 1946 season. Before spring training Jesse Douglas, Gread McKinnis and Art Pennington all left the United States to play ball in Mexico. By the time the season started, Candy Jim only had one player (Clyde Nelson) in his starting line-up that had been a starter in 1945. To make matters even worse he was never given the talent to work with in his last tenure with the American Giants. Dr. John B. Martin, the owner of the Chicago American Giants, was very emphatic that he would never provide the salaries to compete with the Mexican League or any other baseball organizations.



Racine Journal Times

Racine, WI
 06-23-45

The top players in Candy Jim's revamped lineup for 1946 were Bernell "Chick" Longest (.353), Clyde Nelson (.327), Clyde "Junior" McNeal (.308) and James McCurrine (.298). Gentry Jessup (7-6) and Walt McCoy (3-5) were Chicago's top two pitchers during the season.

The Chicago American Giants struggled all year. They finished the season in last place in the 1946 Negro American League with a record of 27-45 (.375).

Candy Jim Taylor was selected to coach in the 1946 East-West All Star game at Comiskey Park.



East-West All Star Game (1946)
(Taylor – kneeling second on left)

Things didn't get any better for Candy Jim Taylor and the Chicago American Giants in 1947. In 1946 Taylor lost all but one of his starting players before the season started. Candy Jim was faced with the same problem in 1947. Only two starters (Chick Longest and Clyde Mc Neal) from the 1946 season were back for the 1947 season. For the second year in a row Candy Jim was faced with totally rebuilding the team. Before the season even started Candy Jim was scouting new players, making trades and planning for how his team was going to compete in the upcoming season. Two of Candy Jim's biggest trades were: Clyde Nelson was sent to the Cleveland Buckeyes for Buddy Armour and Walt Thomas went to Birmingham for Lyman Bostock. Taylor also tried to but failed in signing Luke Easter.

The top players for Candy Jim during the 1947 season were Lyman Bostock (1B), Clyde McNeal (SS), Buddy Armour (OF), Sam Hill (OF) and Chick Longest (2B). The American Giants pitching staff included Earl Bumpus, Gentry Jessup, Clarence Locke, Walt McCoy, Harry Rhodes and Riley Stewart.

The Chicago American Giants and Negro League baseball as a whole struggled all season. The fan base for all the Negro League teams was deteriorating, star players left the United States for Mexico, Negro League teams were threatened by Major League organizations getting ready to raid their rosters and team owners started selling as soon as they could.



Chicago American Giants (1947)
(Taylor – standing first on right)

The Chicago American Giants improved slightly over the season before. They finished the Negro American League season in fifth place out of six teams. Chicago had moved up one place from last. Chicago had a won-loss record of 31-50 (.390) for the 1947 season.

An Untimely Death

Over the off season, Candy Jim Taylor was signed by Vernon Green, the owner of the Baltimore Elite Giants, to manage his team for the 1948 season. Candy Jim's first assignment was to attend the Negro American League meeting that was held in Chicago on December 29, 1947 and make an application for a franchise in Nashville for the Elite Giants. The application along with an application by Wingfield S. Welch for a franchise in New Orleans was turned down.

Candy Jim's health problems had started about the middle of the 1947 season and he progressively got worse. In early 1948 Taylor was hospitalized in Chicago when the Baltimore Elite Giants started spring training in Nashville (TN). Henry Kimbro, star outfielder for the Elite Giants, served as the acting manager while the team waited for Candy Jim to join them. Taylor never left the hospital. Candy Jim Taylor passed away one week into spring training at People's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois on Saturday April 3, 1948. Candy Jim was only 64 years old. His funeral services were held at Metropolitan Funeral home on April 7th. James Allen Taylor was put to rest at the Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip, Illinois. He was buried in an unmarked grave. In September of 2004, fifty-six years after his funeral, a grave stone was placed on his grave site by the Baseball Grave Marker Project.

One of the ironies of his death was that he was actually taking over a very good team with a promising season in the Baltimore Elite Giants. They won the first half of the Negro National League season and came in second to the Homestead Grays in the final "league" standings. It would have been nice for Candy Jim to have gone out as a "winner."

James Allen "Candy Jim" Taylor's professional baseball career had spanned five decades from 1904 to 1947. He started playing baseball before there even was a Negro National League and was still managing when Jackie Robinson was on the verge of breaking the racial barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was an outstanding player and as former Negro League player and manager Felton Snow put it "he was the greatest strategist in baseball" when it came to managing. His passing was a significant loss to the game of baseball.

Assessing Candy Jim Taylor's Playing Career

- Candy Jim Taylor is best remembered as a manager in the Negro Leagues, but what a lot of people don't realize was that he was a **very good player before he started managing**.
- Even though different researchers have different yearly and career batting averages for Taylor, all agree that **Candy Jim Taylor was a very good hitter** during his playing days. The following chart presents the yearly batting averages for Taylor as compiled by four different researchers. The difference in statistics is that different researchers have different games and box scores for which they have analyzed. In addition some researchers only report "league" games while other researchers combine both "league" and "non-league" games in their totals. It is important to keep in mind that for the years with what appears to be an extremely high or low batting average, this is most likely due to a small sample size.

Comparison of Candy Jim's Yearly Batting Averages by Leading Researchers

	Larry Lester and Dick Clark	John Holway	Seamheads	MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia	Difference
1908	-	-	-	-	-
1909	.316	.188	.348	-	160
1910	.225	-	.182	-	43
1911	.278	.200	.290	-	90
1912	.246	.278	.252	-	32
1913	.253	.267	.308	.280	55
1914	.290	.232	.290	.269	58
1915	.380	.250/.333	.316	.217	130
1916	.291	.282	.301	.301	.19
1917	.249	.241	.271	.263	30
1918	.193	.194	.229	.211	36
1919	.143	-	.243	-	100
1920	.234	.232	.236	-	4
1921	.297	-	.284	-	13
1922	.208	.268	.236	.225	60
1923	.372	.309	.372	.287	85
1924	.321	.347	.333	.342	26
1925	.256	-	-	.186	70
1926	.359	.329	-	.304	55
1927	.421	-	-	.395	26
1928	.320	-	-	.286	34
1929	-	-	-	-	-
1930	.259	-	-	.250	9
Career Average	.279	-	.283	.275	8

- Research from five top Negro League researchers reveals the following career hitting statistics for Candy Jim Taylor. The Center for Negro League Baseball research has identified the most games and at bats for Taylor in games against top level competition. The Center for Negro League Baseball research reveals that Taylor compiled a career batting average of .289. This supports the supposition that Candy Jim Taylor was a very good hitter.

Comparison of Candy Jim's Career Batting Average by Leading Researchers

	Center for Negro League Baseball Research	Larry Lester & Dick Clark	Seamheads	Baseball Reference	MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia
Games	768	691	579	-	325
At Bats	2421	2212	2081	1692	886
Hits	699	618	589	489	244
Batting Average	.289	.279	.283	.289	.275

- Candy Jim Taylor started playing semi-pro and sandlot ball in 1901 when he was about 17 years old. He played his first season of professional baseball in 1904 with the Birmingham Giants. Even when he was managing he played fulltime then as he got older he played occasionally and did a lot of pinch hitting. His longevity as a player-manager was remarkable. In 1930 at the age of 46 he was still pinch hitting on a regular basis for the Memphis Red Sox. The amazing thing about his playing career was that he still produced at the plate when he was in his 40's. In fact Candy Jim Taylor **got better as a hitter the older he got**. His best seasons as a hitter were from 1923 to 1928 when he compiled a batting average of .352 (184 for 522) during this six year period of time. Taylor was 39 to 44 years of age during this time frame.
- When Candy Jim joined the Birmingham Giants he was already known for his **defensive abilities at third base**. According to Reginald Howard who was Taylor's bat boy in the 1940's, Taylor got his nickname "Candy Jim" not because of his love of sweets but because he played third base as "sweet as candy." Taylor's defensive abilities exhibited in his very first season with the Birmingham Giants. During his first 55 games with the Birmingham Giants in 1908 he made only three errors. Candy Jim Taylor was always considered one of the better fielding third basemen in black baseball during his playing career.
- Taylor brought a **winning attitude** to the teams for whom he played. During his career he played on **eight (8) championship teams**. These teams were as follows:

Championships as a Player

Year	Team	Championship	Record	Pct.
1907	Birmingham Giants	Champions of the South	51-31	.622
1908	Birmingham Giants	Champions of the South	-	-
1909	St. Paul Colored Gophers	Colored Championship of the West	-	-
1909	St. Paul Colored Gophers	World's Colored Champions	68-17-1	.782
1910	West Baden Sprudels	Springs Valley League Champions	-	-
1912	Chicago American Giants	Colored Champions of the West	33-19	.632
1913	Chicago American Giants	Colored Champions of the West	59-23-1	.720
1916	Indianapolis ABC's	Colored Champions of the West	47-24-2	.652
1916	Indianapolis ABC's	Colored Champions of the World	47-24-2	.652
1920	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League Champions	32-13	.711
1920	Chicago American Giants	Championship Series vs Negro Southern League	-	-

Assessing Taylor's Managerial Career

- When assessing Candy Jim Taylor's career as a manager in the Negro Leagues it is important to see **how he stacks up against the other top Negro League managers** of all-time. The following chart presents the won-loss records for regular season "league" games, number of pennants won and number of World Series victories for the top Negro League managers.

All-Time Negro League Managers

Manager	Number of Seasons	Won-Loss Record	Pct.	Pennants	World Series Wins
1. Candy Jim Taylor	30	907-809	.529	3	2
2. Oscar Charleston	19	414-338	.551	2	0
3. Vic Harris	12	400-231	.630	7	1
4. Dick Lundy	10	293-185	.613	3	0
5. Bullet Rogan	5	262-124	.679	1	0
6. Rube Foster	6	254-151	.627	3	0
7. Dave Malarcher	6	250-118	.679	3	2
8. Frank Warfield	8	236-158	.599	3	1
9. Jose Mendez	4	215-107	.669	3	1
10. John Henry Lloyd	6	172-159	.520	1	0
11. Jose Fernandez	-	156-174	.470	1	1
12. Winfield Welch	-	88-55	.620	3	0

(Much of the above research was conducted by Gary Ashwill. The statistics for Candy Jim Taylor, Vic Harris and Dick Lundy were compiled by the Center for Negro League Baseball Research. It is important to note that this list is by no means complete and additional research still needs to be conducted. In addition it is important to mention that Negro League greats Sol White and C.I. Taylor are not on this list because most of their best years were prior to 1920 and even though Rube Foster is mentioned on the list, most of his best years were before 1920 and not included in this research project.)

- During his career as manager, James Allen "Candy Jim Taylor **won more "league" games and games against other teams of top level competition than another other manager in the history of Negro League baseball.** From the research that has been currently uncovered, Candy Jim posted a won-loss record of 907-809-4 (.529) in these games. Remarkably he won more than twice as many games as the next win ingest manager in Negro League baseball history. Oscar Charleston who is in second place on the all time wins list for managers won 414 games and is still 493 wins behind Candy Jim for the top spot on the list. Candy Jim's overall won-loss record currently stands at 1094-892-10 (.551). These numbers will undoubtedly change significantly as more research is done because we are still missing a significant number of games against "league" teams, games against teams of top level competition, hundreds of "non league" games and are still trying to sort out seasons where Candy Jim and another manager split a season managing the same team.

When looking at Candy Jim's won-loss record in Negro League baseball, it is important to keep in mind he managed a lot of start-up teams, teams in a rebuilding mode, teams with "no name" lineups and just generally overall "bad" teams. Five of the worst teams that he managed during his 30 year career were the 1920 Dayton Marcos (16-36), 1922 Cleveland Tate Stars (17-29), 1926 Cleveland Elites (5-32), 1946 Chicago American Giants (27-45) and the 1947 Chicago American Giants (31-50). These five teams had a combined won-loss record of 96-192 (.333). If these five seasons were taken out of his career totals, Taylor would have had an adjusted won-loss record of 811-617 (.568). This would have resulted in a 39 point difference in his career winning percentage.

Even though his career numbers as a manager are impressive, it would have been fascinating to see how many games he would have won if he had managed mainly top

level teams throughout his career and not taken all the start-up and rebuilding projects that he did.

- Candy Jim Taylor only **won three Negro National League championships (St. Louis in 1928 and Homestead in 1943 and 1944) and two Negro League World Series (1943 and 1944)** during his managing career. These numbers may seem less than spectacular for a thirty year career, but it is important to note that Candy Jim Taylor managed a lot of start-up teams, teams in a rebuilding mode, teams with “no name” lineups and just generally overall “bad” teams. He had the talent to stay with one organization but chose to move from team to team.

He also won two California Winter League championships in the two seasons he managed on the West Coast and won the prestigious Denver Post Tournament in 1936.

- The **longevity of Candy Jim’s managing career** is remarkable and unmatched in Negro League baseball history. He managed thirty (30) regular seasons plus managed numerous teams in the off season. Over the course of his career, he managed with fifteen (15) different organizations/teams during the regular season. Some of these organizations with which he had more than one stay. He is also listed on some websites as having managed the 1931 Louisville White Sox, but there is no primary source documentation that supports this contention. It is also important to note that he had signed to manage the Baltimore Elite Giants for the 1948 season when he passed away during spring training. Baseball was Taylor’s life and he had no plans of retirement. Had he lived, there is no telling how long he may have managed or how many games he would have won. In reality he would have most likely continued to manage until no owner would hire him. In short, baseball was his life.
- Candy Jim Taylor was a **master strategist** on the ball field. Former managers and players all agreed that Candy Jim was one of the best if not the best when it came to managing a ball game.



James “Cool Pappa” Bell and Candy Jim Taylor

- As a manager, Taylor had a **talent for identifying and working with young ball players**. One of his star pupils was Ray Dandridge. Candy Jim had discovered Dandridge when the Detroit Stars were playing the Richmond All Stars in Richmond (VA). Taylor paid Ray's father \$25 to sign his son and Ray left town with the Detroit Stars. In an interview with Negro League researcher John Holway, Dandridge shared with Holway that Candy Jim Taylor had taught him how to hit. In Dandridge's own words:

"I used to like to hit home runs. He got me in the box with a 37-ounce bat and showed me how to hit line drives."

Candy Jim did make one colossal mistake in his managerial career. While managing the Memphis Red Sox in 1930, Candy Jim picked up a young player by the name of Josh Gibson. After one game in Scranton (PA), Taylor sent Gibson home and afterwards said Josh would never be a catcher.

- He was **respected by his peers, team owners, players and the fans**. Candy Jim Taylor was always in demand from team owners. He never went a season without managing a "league" team. He was also selected to manage in four East-West All Stars games and selected six times to coach in the annual classic. When Dr. J.B. Martin, President of the Negro American League, was asked to comment about Candy Jim shortly after his death, Dr. Martin had the following to say:

"Jim Taylor was great baseball manager. He was at all times a perfect gentleman. He tried hard to win. The game has lost a great man."

- Taylor had a **management style to which players responded**. He was known for taking a low key approach with players. When James "Cool Papa" Bell was asked about Candy Jim, he had the following to say:

"...he kept players loose and you loved to play for him."

Buck Leonard who played for Taylor in 1943 and 1944 shared the following about him:

"He was more relaxed and a better teacher than Vic (Harris). The players responded to Candy Jim better than Vic. A lot better. Candy Jim knew what he was talking about."

When asked about his approach to managing, Candy Jim had the following to say:

"Do anything you want to do because I don't care if you hit standing on your head, as long as you hit."

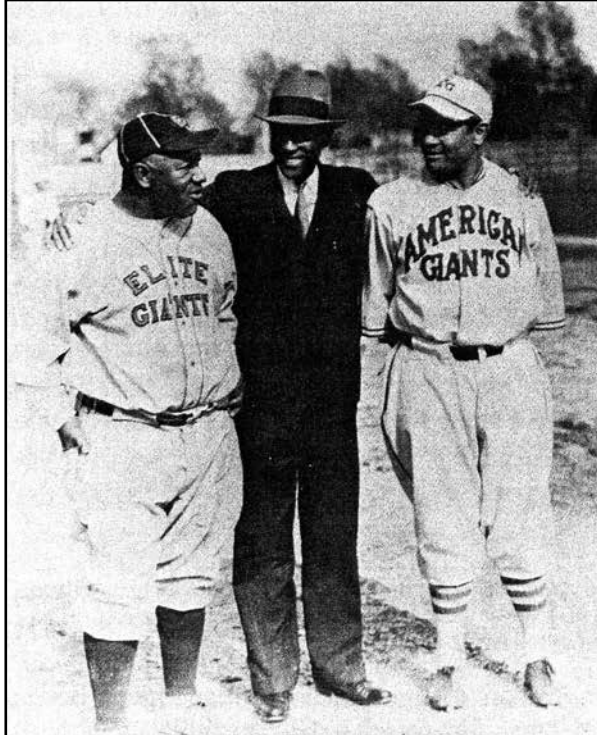
- Candy Jim Taylor was **always in demand as a manager** especially by owners who were forming a new team or were about ready to enter the "league." The best evidence of this is that he always had a job. He moved around a lot, but every season he was always managing a team at the highest level of black baseball.

What made Candy Jim Taylor such an exceptional manager ?

Candy Jim Taylor won more games than any other manager in Negro League baseball history. He has been referred to as a master strategist and legendary field general.

Our research has identified the following characteristics that Candy Jim possessed that we feel made him so successful.

1. **Intellect.** His knowledge of the game, quick thinking, insight and problem solving abilities made him a master strategist. He also had an excellent role model in his brother C.I. Taylor who is recognized as one the best managers of his day.
2. **Standard of Conduct.** Candy Jim always upheld the highest standards of conduct both on and off the field. He also expected these same standards from his players.
3. **Discipline.** Taylor was an extremely disciplined individual and had the same expectations of his players. One example of this is that it was once said of him that he would leave his own mother behind if she missed the team bus.
4. **Emphasized Fundamentals.** Taylor grew up playing small ball. He knew how to score runs, manufacture runs, how to control the game and how to win a tight ball game.
5. **No Nonsense Attitude.** He was a hard worker and expected the same from everyone else. In addition he had very strong policies on drinking and inappropriate behavior from his players. He had rules and enforced them regardless of who the player was.
6. **Stand-Up Individual.** Candy Jim always stood up for his team, players and owner.



7. **Teacher.** It has been said of Candy Jim that he was a bright pupil who grew up to be an outstanding teacher. He was an excellent judge of talent and there was no one better at developing young ball players. One of the most important things that Taylor stressed was that he wanted you to think.
8. **Respect.** Taylor always exemplified a respect of the game, his team and the fans.
9. **Integrity.** Candy Jim Taylor was a professional and always represented Negro League baseball in the best possible light both on and off the field.
- 10 **Dedication.** Baseball was Candy Jim Taylor's life. There was nothing else; he never married, had any children or seemed to have any real personal life outside baseball.

Candy Jim Taylor, Dave Malarcher and Larry Brown

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1901-1903	Various sandlot and semi-pro teams in South Carolina	
1904-1908	Birmingham Giants	Independent
1909	Leland Giants	Independent
1909	St. Paul Colored Gophers	Independent
1910	Chicago Giants	Independent
1910	Chicago Leland Giants	Independent
1910	St. Paul Colored Gophers	Independent
1910	West Baden Sprudels	Independent
1911	St. Louis Giants	Independent
1912	West Baden Sprudels	Independent
1912-1913	Chicago American Giants	Independent
1914-1915	Indianapolis ABC's	Independent
1915	Louisville White Sox	Independent
1915	Chicago Black Sox	Independent
1915	West Baden Sprudels	Independent
1916-1918	Indianapolis ABC's	Independent
1918-1919	Dayton Marcos	Independent
1919	Chicago Giants	Independent
1919	Detroit Stars	Independent
1920	Dayton Marcos	Negro National League
1920	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Negro National League (Affiliate Member)
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Negro National League
1923	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent
1923	Toledo Tigers	Negro National League
1923-1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1926	Cleveland Elites	Negro National League
1926	Dayton Marcos	Negro National League
1926	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
1927-1929	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1930	Memphis Red Sox	Negro National League
1931	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro National League
1932	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro Southern League
1933	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
1933-1934	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro National League
1935	Columbus Elite Giants	Negro National League
1940	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League

- It is important to note that Candy Jim started managing on a fulltime basis in 1919. Besides managing he also played in the field on a regular basis through the 1924 season. From 1925 through 1940 he would occasionally play in the field, pinch hit or put himself in as a relief pitcher.

Winter Leagues:

Year	Team	League
1912-13	Chicago American Giants	California Winter League
1913	Chicago American Giants	Game vs Portland Beavers
1913	Hills (Chicago American Giants)	Game vs Greens (Chicago Giants)
1913	Chicago American Giants	Championship Series vs Lincoln Giants
1914	Indianapolis ABC's	Four Game Series vs Donie Bush's All Stars
1914	Indianapolis ABC's	Two Games vs Indianapolis All Professionals
1915	Indianapolis ABC's	Game vs All Leaguers
1915	Indianapolis ABC's	Game vs Minor League All Stars
1915	Indianapolis ABC's	Four Game Series vs Donie Bush's All Stars
1916	Royal Poinciana Hotel	Florida Hotel League
1916	Indianapolis ABC's	Championship Series vs Chicago American Giants
1916	Indianapolis ABC's	Game vs Major League All Stars
1916	Indianapolis ABC's	Game vs Art Nehf's "All Pros"
1917	Indianapolis ABC's	Two Games vs Indianapolis Indians
1917	Indianapolis ABC's	Doubleheader vs Dolan's Indianapolis All Pros
1917	Indianapolis ABC's	Game vs Donie Bush's All Stars
1920	Chicago American Giants	Championship Series vs Knoxville Giants



Homestead Grays (1944)
 Negro National League and Negro League World Series Champions
 (Taylor – standing first on right)

Managerial Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1910	St. Paul Colored Gophers	Independent
1919	Dayton Marcos	Independent
1920	Dayton Marcos	Negro National League
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Negro National League (Affiliate)
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Negro National League
1923	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent
1923	Toledo Tigers	Negro National League
1923-1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1926	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
1926	Cleveland Elites	Negro National League
1927-1929	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League
1930	Memphis Red Sox	Negro National League
1931	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro National League
1932	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro Southern League
1933	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro National League
1933	Detroit Stars	Negro National League
1933-1934	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro National League
1935	Nashville Elite Giants	Independent
1935	Detroit Elite Giants	Negro National League
1935	Columbus Elite Giants	Negro National League
1936	Nashville Elite Giants	Independent
1936	Washington Elite Giants	Negro National League
1937-1939	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League
1940	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League
1941-1942	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League
1943-1944	Homestead Grays	Negro National League
1945-1947	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League
1948	Baltimore Elite Giants	Negro National League

Winter Leagues:

Year	Team	League
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Two Games vs O'Neil All Stars
1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League Play-Off Series vs Kansas City Monarchs
1928	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League Play-Off Series vs Chicago American Giants
1935-36	Wilson's Royal Giants	California Winter League
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Barnstorming Tour
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Denver Post Tournament
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Two Games vs Major League All Stars
1936-37	Royal Giants	California Winter League
1937	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League Play-Off Series vs Kansas City Monarchs
1939	Chicago American Giants	Doubleheader vs Satchel Paige All Stars
1943	Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series vs Birmingham Black Barons
1944	Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series vs Birmingham Black Barons

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1904	Birmingham	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.290	-
1905	Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.306	-
1906	Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.298	-
1907	Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.340	-
1908	Birmingham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.316	-
1909	St. Paul	6	23	6	8	1	1	0	2	1	.348	.478
1910	Chicago	10	40	2	9	0	0	0	2	0	.225	.225
	West Baden											
1911	St. Louis	9	31	7	9	3	0	1	8	2	.290	.484
1912	Chicago	39	175	20	43	5	3	1	24	1	.246	.326
	West Baden											
1913	Chicago	50	195	30	60	11	2	0	28	3	.308	.385
1914	Indianapolis	60	221	45	64	8	7	7	43	29	.290	.484
1915	Louisville	17	71	19	27	5	0	0	18	8	.380	.451
	Indianapolis											
1916	Indianapolis	54	196	37	57	9	5	0	36	23	.291	.388
1917	Indianapolis	58	214	28	58	14	2	0	33	9	.271	.355
1918	Indianapolis	31	109	10	25	3	0	1	16	0	.229	.284
1919	Detroit	28	103	13	25	5	0	0	11	4	.243	.291
	Dayton											
1920	Dayton	41	140	25	33	7	1	0	15	13	.236	.300
	Chicago											
1921	Cleveland	42	155	27	44	6	1	0	13	6	.284	.335
1922	Cleveland	47	157	25	37	9	2	1	21	3	.236	.338
1923	Toledo	61	215	49	80	7	3	20	76	4	.372	.712
	St. Louis											
1924	St. Louis	42	123	16	41	8	0	1	18	7	.333	.423
1925	St. Louis	36	43	3	11	0	0	2	10	4	.256	.395
1926	Cleveland	43	78	10	28	3	0	1	15	0	.359	.436
	Detroit											
1927	St. Louis	26	38	3	16	4	0	0	2	1	.421	.526
1928	St. Louis	21	25	1	8	0	0	0	2	0	.320	.320
1929	St. Louis	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1930	Memphis	21	27	3	7	1	0	0	2	1	.259	.296
1931	Indianapolis	6	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.111	.111
1932	Indianapolis	8	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.077	.077
1933	Detroit	3	6	0	4	1	1	0	2	0	.667	1.170
1934	Nashville	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.333	.667
1935	Columbus	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	.667	.667
1940	Birmingham	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	768	2421	380	699	111	28	35	397	119	.289	.401

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Championship Series)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1916	Indianapolis	5	17	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	.529	-
1920	Chicago	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1.000	-
	Total	6	19	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	.579	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1914	Indianapolis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1915	Indianapolis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1916	Indianapolis	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.250	-
	Total	3	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.167	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Non League Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1908	Birmingham	1	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	4	1.000	1.000
1917	Indianapolis	2	5	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	.200	.600
1919	Indianapolis	1	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	.500	.500
1919	Dayton	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	.250	.250
1920	Chicago	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1.000	1.000
1921	Cleveland	2	8	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	.500	.500
1922	Cleveland	6	20	8	11	3	-	-	-	-	.550	.700
1929	St. Louis	-	8	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	.750	1.125
	Total	14	55	15	31	3	1	1	-	7	.564	.709

Career Statistics – Hitting (California Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1912-13	Chicago	8	27	-	11	2	1	0	-	-	.407	.556

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro League Games	768	2421	380	699	111	28	35	397	119	.289	.401
Championship Series	6	19	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	.579	-
Non-League	14	55	15	31	3	1	1	-	7	.564	.709
Exhibition Games	3	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.167	-
California	8	27	-	11	2	1	0	-	-	.407	.556
Totals	799	2528	396	753	116	30	36	397	126	.298	-

Career Statistics – Pitching

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1910	St. Paul	1	3.0	0	0	2	1	1	0	3.00
1918	Indianapolis	1	7.0	1	0	6	1	3	3	1.29
1919	Dayton	1	6.7	1	0	10	5	3	2	6.75
1921	Cleveland	2	5.7	0	1	10	7	2	1	11.12
1922	Cleveland	3	15.3	1	1	19	9	5	7	5.28
1923	Toledo	2	4.0	0	1	10	5	2	1	11.25
	St. Louis									
1926	Cleveland	1	4.0	0	0	4	0	0	3	0.00
1927	St. Louis	-	12.3	1	1	19	6	3	4	4.26
1928	St. Louis	-	2.3	0	0	5	4	1	0	15.43
1929	St. Louis	-	8.7	0	0	7	5	3	1	5.19
1930	Memphis	-	3.3	0	1	7	6	1	0	16.20
1933	Detroit	-	1.0	0	0	5	4	0	0	36.00
1934	Nashville	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
1935	Columbus	1	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
	Total	-	76.3	4	6	104	53	24	22	6.25

- Candy Jim Taylor never presented himself as a pitcher. He would make an occasional start or go into a game for the sole purpose of preserving the pitching staff or if there were no other real options.

Managerial Record

Regular Season – League Games:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1910	St. Paul Colored Gophers	Independent	2-4	.333	-
1919	Dayton Marcos	Independent	6-12	.333	-
1920	Dayton Marcos	Negro National League	16-36	.308	7 th
1921	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent	18-24-1	.429	-
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Negro National League	17-29	.370	8 th
1923	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent	-	-	-
1923	Toledo Tigers	Negro National League	11-15	.423	-
1923	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	14-26	.350	6 th
1924	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	42-34	.553	4 th
1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	71-27	.724	2 nd
1926	Cleveland Elites	Negro National League	5-32	.135	8 th
1926	Detroit Stars	Negro National League	-	-	-
1927	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	62-39	.614	3 rd
1928	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	66-26	.717	1 st
1929	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	59-33	.641	2 nd
1930	Memphis Red Sox	Negro National League	29-45	.392	6 th
1931	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro National League	36-17-1	.680	2 nd
1932	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro Southern League	34-27	.541	4 th
1933	Indianapolis ABC's	Negro National League	1-6	.140	-
1933	Detroit Stars	Negro National League	13-20	.390	-
1933	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro National League	17-9	.650	-
1934	Nashville Elite Giants	Negro National League	17-18	.486	4 th
1935	Columbus Elite Giants	Negro National League	28-21	.571	2 nd
1936	Washington Elite Giants	Negro National League	21-24	.467	4 th
1937	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	32-14-1	.700	2 nd
1936	Washington Elite Giants	Negro National League	21-24	.467	4 th
1937	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	32-14-1	.700	2 nd
1938	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	25-20	.556	4 th
1939	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	23-16	.590	2 nd
1940	Birmingham Black Barons	Negro American League	9-10	.474	5 th
1941	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	9-12	.429	6 th
1942	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	3-18	.140	6 th
1943	Homestead Grays	Negro National League	44-15	.746	1 st
1944	Homestead Grays	Negro National League	27-12	.690	1 st
1945	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	39-35	.527	3 rd
1946	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	27-45	.375	6 th
1947	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League	31-50	.383	5 th
Total			907-809-4	.529	-

Negro League Play-Off Games:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League Play-Off Series	3-4	.429	Lost
1928	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League Play-Off Series	5-4	.556	Won
1937	Chicago American Giants	Negro American League Play-Off	1-3-1	.250	Lost
Total			9-11-1	.450	-

Negro League World Series Games:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1943	Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series	4-3-1	.571	Won
1944	Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series	4-1	.800	Won
Total			8-4-1	.667	-

East-West All Star Games:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1933	West	East-West All Star game	1-0	1.000	Won
1937	West	East-West All Star game	0-1	.000	Lost
1941	West	East-West All Star game	0-1	.000	Lost
1944	East	East-West All Star game	0-1	.000	Lost
Total			1-3	.333	-

Regular Season – “Non-League” Games:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1910	St. Paul Colored Gophers	Independent	6-5	.545	-
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Independent	14-5-1	.714	-
1931	Indianapolis ABC's	Independent	10-1	.910	-
1934	Nashville Elite Giants	Independent	1-0	1.000	-
1935	Nashville Elite Giants	Independent	0-1	.000	-
1936	Nashville Elite Giants	Independent	2-1	.667	-
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Independent	1-0	1.000	-
1937	Chicago American Giants	Independent	28-12	.700	-
1938	Chicago American Giants	Independent	4-2	.667	-
1939	Chicago American Giants	Independent	6-6	.500	-
1940	Birmingham Black Barons	Independent	2-0	1.000	-
1941	Chicago American Giants	Independent	9-3	.750	-
1942	Chicago American Giants	Independent	8-3	.727	-
1943	Homestead Grays	Independent	2-1	.667	-
1944	Homestead Grays	Independent	19-6	.760	-
1945	Chicago American Giants	Independent	2-1	.667	-
1946	Chicago American Giants	Independent	1-1	.500	-
1947	Chicago American Giants	Independent	1-2	.333	-
Total			116-50-1	.699	-

- These “non-league” game totals are for the “non-league” games for which we found line scores and/or box scores. They represent only a miniscule percentage of all the “non-league” games Candy Jim Taylor managed during his career.

Exhibition Games:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1922	Cleveland Tate Stars	Exhibition	0-2	.000	-
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Exhibition	2-0	1.000	-
Total			2-2	.500	-

California Winter League:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1935-36	Wilson's Royal Giants	California Winter League	23-6-2	.790	1 st
1936-37	Royal Giants	California Winter League	21-7-1	.750	1 st
Total			44-13-3	.772	-

Denver Post Tournament:

Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.	Place
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Denver Post Tournament	7-0	1.000	1 st

Managerial Career (Won-Loss Record)

	Won-Loss	Pct.
Negro League Games	907-809-4	.529
"Non-League" Games	116-50-1	.699
Negro League Play-Off Games	9-11-1	.450
Negro League World Series	8-4-1	.667
East-West All Star Games	1-3	.333
Exhibition Games	2-2	.500
California Winter League	44-13-3	.790
Denver Post Tournament	7-0	1.000
Total	1094-892-10	.551

Managerial Championships

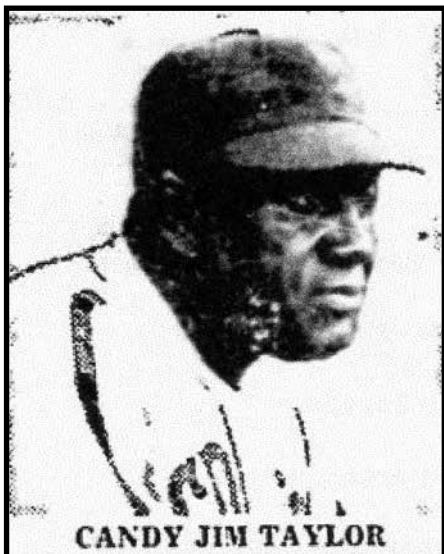
Year	Team	League	Record	Pct.
1920	Cleveland Tate Stars	Colored Champions of Ohio	-	-
1925	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League (2 nd Half)	38-12	.760
1928	St. Louis Stars	Negro National League	66-26	.717
1935-36	Wilson's Royal Giants	California Winter League	23-6-2	.790
1936	Washington Elite Giants	Negro National League (1 st Half)	14-10	.583
1936	Negro National League All Stars	Denver Post Tournament	7-0	1.000
1936-37	Royal Giants	California Winter League	21-7-1	.750
1943	Homestead Gays	Negro National League	44-15	.746
1943	Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series	4-3-1	.571
1944	Homestead Grays	Negro National League	27-13	.675
1944	Homestead Grays	Negro League World Series	4-1	.800

Selected Career Highlights as a Player

- Posted a career batting average of .289 with a .401 slugging percentage in Negro League games and games against other top level black teams. Taylor's career batting average in games against all levels of competition was .298.
- Candy Jim's best seasons hitting were 1907 (.340), 1915 (.380), 1923 (.372), 1926 (.359) and 1927 (.421).
- In 14 games against independent teams and local teams, Candy Jim went 31 for 55 for a .564 batting average.
- Taylor seemed to get better as a hitter the older he got. His best seasons as a hitter were from 1923 to 1928 when he compiled a batting average of .352 (184 for 522) during this six year period of time. Taylor was 39 to 44 years of age during this time frame.
- Member of the 1907 and 1908 Birmingham Giants team who were considered the "Colored Champions of the South."
- Starting third baseman and one of the leading hitters for the 1909 St. Paul Colored Giants team that beat the Leland Giants for the title of "Colored Champions of the West." The 1909 St. Paul team was also the self-proclaimed "Colored World's Champions."
- Starting third baseman for the 1912 and 1913 Chicago American Giants teams who were considered the "Colored Champions of the West."
- Led the Chicago American Giants in hitting with a .407 batting average during their 1912-13 California Winter League season.
- In 1914 in 60 games against teams of top level competition Candy Jim Taylor stole 29 bases.
- In 1916 led the Indianapolis ABC's to a "Colored Championship of the West" series victory over the Chicago American Giants. Taylor batted .529 for the Championship Series. On the strength of this victory, the Indianapolis ABC's also claimed the title of "Colored Champions of the World."
- Played on and was the manager of the 1920 Cleveland Tate Stars team that promoted themselves as the "Colored Champions of Ohio."
- Member of the 1920 Negro National League champion Chicago American Giants. The Chicago American Giants then defeated the Knoxville Giants (Negro Southern League Champions) in their own "World's Championship Series." This was in reality the "first" Negro League World Series. Taylor was the starting third baseman for the Chicago American Giants during the series.
- In 1923 at the age of thirty-nine, Taylor had the best season of his career at the plate. He spent the first part of the season with the Toledo Tigers and hit .427 with a .707 slugging percentage before moving to the St. Louis Stars for the rest of the year. His combined numbers for both teams were a .372 batting average and a .712 slugging percentage. Candy Jim's twenty (20) homeruns were a career high and tied him for the league lead with Oscar "Heavy" Johnson. Taylor also had a career high 76 runs batted in during the 1923 season.

Selected Career Highlights as a Manager

- James Allen “Candy Jim” Taylor won more ball games as a manager than anyone else in the history of Negro League baseball. Over the course of his career he compiled a won-loss record of 907-809-4 (.529) in “league” games and an overall won-loss record of 1094-892-10 (.551).
- Had the distinction of managing in the inaugural season (1920) of the Negro National League. Candy Jim managed the Dayton Marcos.
- Managed the St. Louis Stars to record of 71-27 (.724) for the 1925 season. The Stars won the second half of the 1925 Negro National League season with a record of 38-12 (.760). They then lost a Play-Off Series four games to three to the Kansas City Monarchs.
- Managed the 1928 St. Louis Stars to a Negro National League championship. The Stars posted a won-loss record of 66-26 (.717) for the 1928 season. St. Louis then defeated the Chicago American Giants in a Playoff Series.
- Appeared in ten (10) East-West All Stars games, four as a manager (1933, 1937, 1941 and 1944) and six as a coach (1936, 1939, 1940, 1945, 1946 and 1947). Candy Jim managed the West squad to victory in 1933.
- In his two seasons managing in the California Winter League (1935-36 and 1936-37), he managed his teams to California Winter League championship titles.
- In 1936 managed the Negro National League All Stars to a championship in the prestigious Denver Post Tournament. Taylor’s team went undefeated in the tournament.
- Managed the Homestead Grays to back to back Negro National League championships in 1943 and 1944.
- Managed the Homestead Grays to back to back Negro League World Series titles in 1943 and 1944. The Grays beat the Birmingham Black Barons in both series. Candy Jim Taylor and Dave Malarcher are the only two managers to win two Negro League World Series titles.



Afro American
10-28-44

- In 2006 he was selected as one of the final thirty-nine (39) players and managers whose names appeared on the final two ballots of voting for the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Candy Jim Taylor fell just short of being elected to the Hall of Fame.
- James Allen “Candy Jim” Taylor is considered one of the greatest managers in the history of Negro League baseball.

Negro National League All Stars

The Negro National League All Stars were one of the best “black” baseball teams ever assembled. The team included five future National Baseball Hall of Famer inductees (James “Cool Papa” Bell, Ray Brown, Josh Gibson, Walter “Buck” Leonard and Satchel Paige). Candy Jim Taylor managed this Negro League “Dream Team.” The highlight of their 1936 barnstorming tour was winning the prestigious Denver Post Baseball Tournament. They went undefeated in the tournament.



(Back row left to right – Seward H. Posey, Sammy T. Hughes, Vic Harris, Burnis “Wild Bill Wright and Bus Driver Hart.

Middle row left to right - Trainer Hood Witter, **Walter “Buck” Leonard**, Chester Williams, **James “Cool Papa” Bell**, Felton Snow, Jack Marshall and **Candy Jim Taylor**.

Kneeling left to right – Paul Hardy, Robert Griffith, **Leroy “Satchel” Paige**, **Raymond Brown**, Sam Streeter, **Josh Gibson** and Bat Boy Horne.)