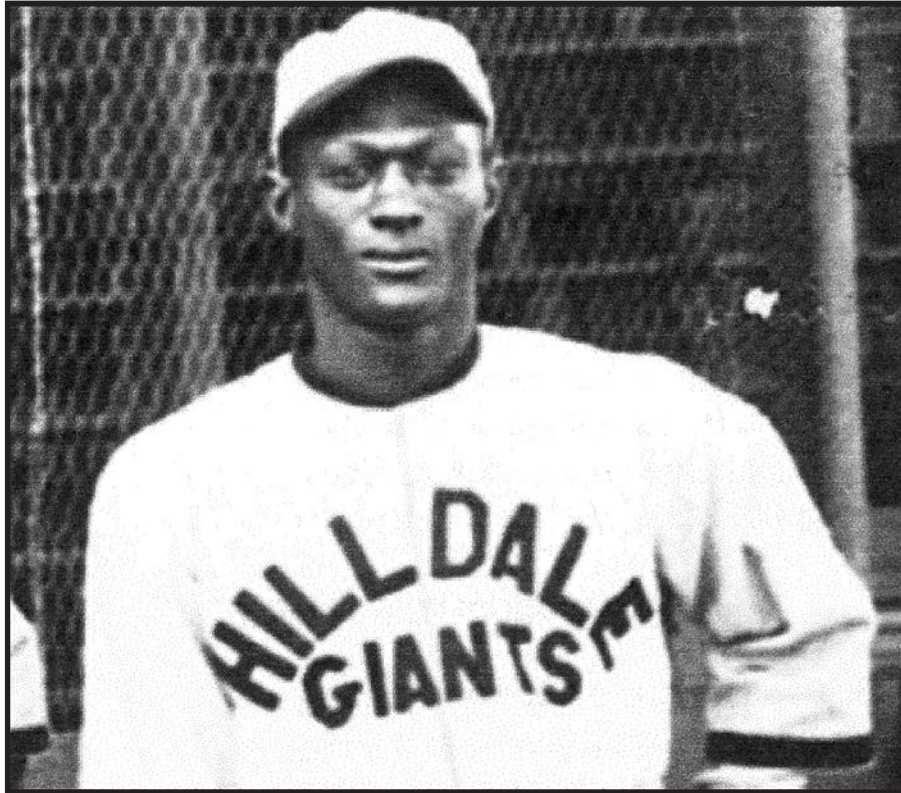


Forgotten Heroes:

Herbert “Rap” Dixon



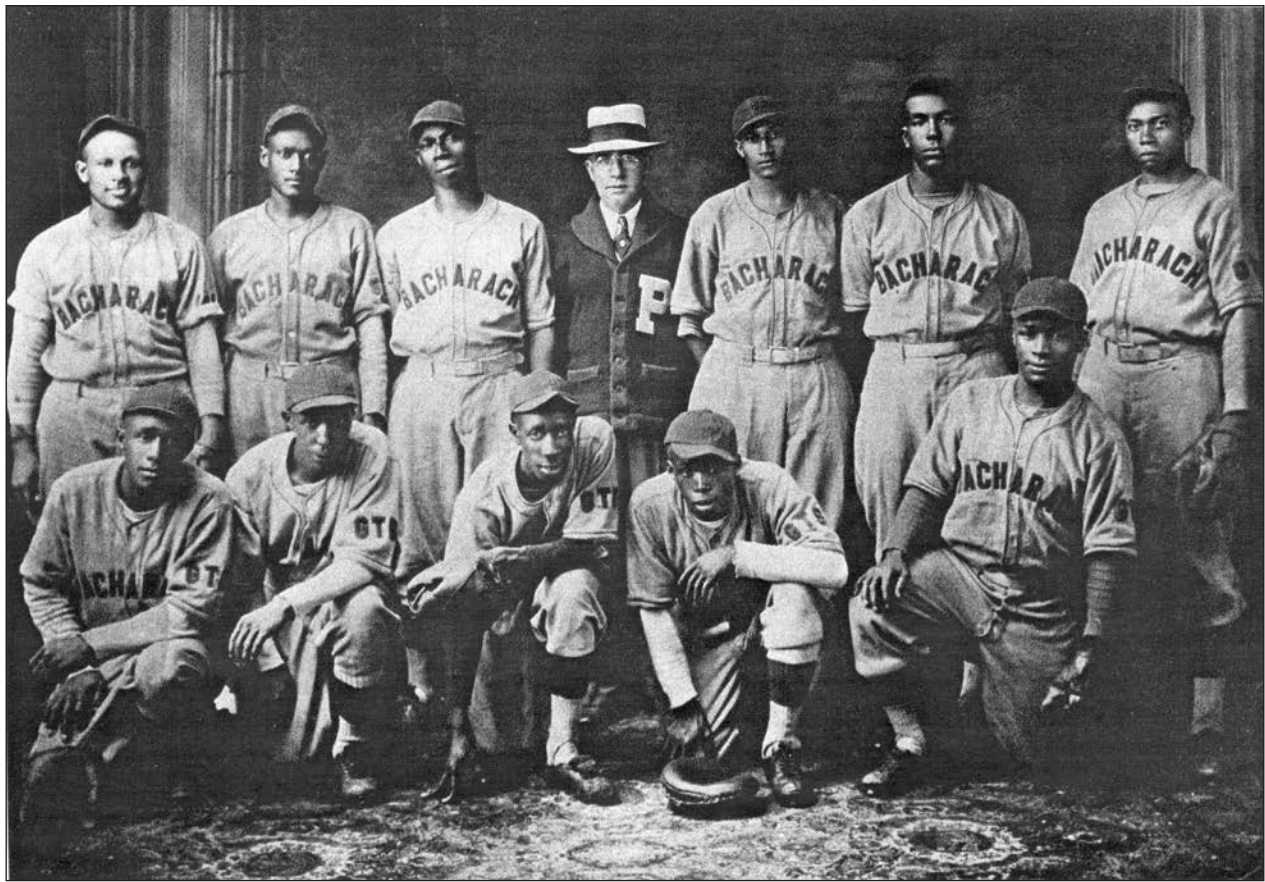
by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

and

Luis Munoz



Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (c. late 1910's)
(Dixon – back row second from left)



Harrisburg Giants (1924)
(Dixon – back row second from left)

Herbert Albert “Rap” Dixon was born in Kingston, Georgia on September 2, 1902. When he was a young boy, his family moved to Steelton, Pennsylvania where his father worked in the steel plants.

Dixon stood six feet two inches tall and weighed 185 pounds during his playing career. He batted right handed and threw right handed.

Rap Dixon was a power hitter who could also hit for average. One example of his power at the plate is a homerun he hit at Koneshi Stadium (Japan) in 1927. This is reportedly one of the longest homeruns ever hit in Japanese baseball history. Another example is the three homeruns he hit in a doubleheader played at Yankee Stadium in 1930. Dixon was primarily a line-drive hitter. He was an intelligent hitter who was difficult to strikeout, was a good curve ball hitter and one of the best hitters of his day when the pitcher had two strikes on him.

During his playing career he was known as one of the fastest players in Negro League baseball. An example of his speed occurred in a base running exhibition he gave when he was in Japan during the Philadelphia Royal Giants Asian Tour. Rap circled the bases in what was then an astounding 14.5 seconds. He was excellent on the base paths, could steal a base with the best of them and was known as a ferocious slider.

In the outfield his speed gave him outstanding range. He also posed an extremely accurate and powerfully throwing arm. In an article in the Afro American on 7-31-26, the reporter described Rap’s throw as if it were “shot from a rifle” as he threw out Jud Wilson at home plate. Rap’s throwing ability was showcased while on the Asian Tour with the Royal Giants. He would stand at home plate and routinely throw the ball over the outfield fence (throws were consistently over 100 meters or 328 feet) during the team’s skills exhibition for their Japanese fans. Dixon also always ranked among the league leaders in assists for an outfielder. Rap Dixon is considered one of the best defensive outfielders in Negro League baseball during the 1920’s and 1930’s.



Herbert “Rap” Dixon

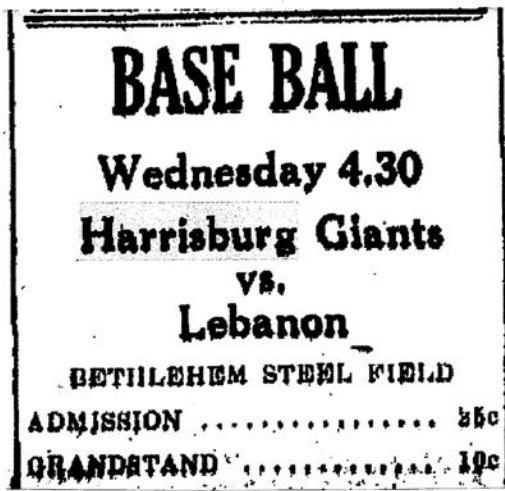
1902-1944

Early Baseball Career

Rap developed his baseball skills while playing for the Keystone Giants and Steelton Giants in his hometown of Steelton, Pennsylvania. According to Negro League researcher Phil Dixon, while Rap was still attending high school, he left school and went to Atlantic City to briefly play for the Bacharach Giants. The story that Phil tells is that when Rap was faced with an upcoming school assignment of dissecting a cat in science class he resisted. Instead he went down to a local sporting goods shop and with money he had made from working weekends in the steel mill, he purchased a new baseball glove and took the train to Atlantic City to play for the Bacharach Giants. It appears that Rap returned to Steelton after his short stay with the Bacharach Giants. After his return home he continued to play for the Steelton Giants and returned to school.

Negro League Career

Dixon began his full-time career as a professional baseball player in 1922 when he signed to play for the Harrisburg Giants. The Giants were owned and operated by Colonel William Strothers and played an independent schedule. The highlight of the Harrisburg Giants 1922 season was their defeating the Harrisburg Senators (white team that played in the New York Penn League) for the Harrisburg City Championship title.



Harrisburg vs Lebanon
09-12-22

When the 1923 baseball season started, Rap was back with the Harrisburg Giants as the starting right fielder. Besides Rap Dixon in right field, some of the other leading players on the 1923 team were Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (left field), Charlie Henry (pitcher), Richard Jackson (second base), Zack Pettus (first base), Harold Treadwell (pitcher) and Burlin White (catcher). Henry Jordan who also caught was the manager of the team.

Before the start of the 1924 baseball season, the Harrisburg Giants joined the Eastern Colored League (ECL) which was in its second year of play. Colonel Strothers was determined to take his team to the next level to enable them to be able to compete with the teams in the newly formed Eastern Colored League.

To accomplish this objective, Strothers brought in several new players to bolster his line-up for the 1924 season. These players included Oscar Charleston (center field), Leon "Pepper" Daniels (catcher), Oscar "Heavy" Johnson (outfield), Edgar Wesley (first base), Daltie Cooper (pitcher), Charles Corbett (pitcher) and Ping Gardner (pitcher). Charleston was named the manager of the Harrisburg team. Dixon was the starting right fielder for the Giants. The combination of Rap Dixon, Oscar Charleston and Fats Jenkins played together from 1924 to 1927 and formed one of the greatest outfields in Negro League baseball history.

The teams and final league standings for the 1924 Eastern Colored League season were as follows:

Eastern Colored League (1924)

Team	Games	Record	Pct
Hilldale Giants	69	47-22	.681
Baltimore Black Sox	51	32-19	.627
New York Lincoln Giants	57	32-25	.561
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	59	30-29	.508
Harrisburg Giants	54	26-28	.481
Brooklyn Royal Giants	42	16-26	.381
Washington Potomacs	58	21-37	.362
Cuban Stars (East)	48	17-31	.354

The Harrisburg Giants were led by the hitting of Edgar Wesley (.348), Clarence Jenkins (.345) and Oscar Charleston (.342). The top pitchers for the Giants were Daltie Cooper (12-9), Kenneth "Ping" Gardner (8-8) and Charles Corbett (6-4). Rap was the team's starting right fielder and batted .262 in the fifty-two Eastern Colored League games in which he played. Dixon also played briefly for the Washington Potomacs during the 1924 season.

Rap returned to the Harrisburg Giants for the 1925 Eastern Colored League (ECL) season. With Oscar Charleston as the manager of the team, Harrisburg rose from fifth place in the final ECL standings in 1924 to second place with a record in "league" games of 37-18 (.673) for the 1925 season. The Hilldale Giants won the Eastern Colored League championship with an unbelievable record of 45-13 (.776). One of the prime reasons for the improved showing of Harrisburg was their hitting. The following six players all hit over .300 for the season: Oscar Charleston (.416), Rev Cannady (.399), Rap Dixon (.344), Ben Taylor (.333), Fats Jenkins (.316) and Richard Jackson (.302). Ping Gardner (11-4) and Charles Corbett (10-3) were the aces of the pitching staff. In addition to his .344 batting average, Dixon had a .500 slugging percentage for the 1925 ECL season.

In mid April before the start of the regular 1926 season, the Harrisburg Giants defeated the Harrisburg Senators (white team) in a two game series by the scores of 6-5 and 14-5 to win the Harrisburg City Championship. The Harrisburg Giants had another good season in the Eastern Colored League in 1926, but their pitching staff kept them from making a serious run at the Eastern Colored League championship. Rap Dixon led the team in hitting with a .348 batting average and a .561 slugging percentage. His complete hitting statistics for the 1926 season were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1926	Harrisburg	59	230	57	80	16	6	7	53	12	.348	.561

John Beckwith (.330) and Clarence “Fats” Jenkins (.319) were the only two other Harrisburg Giants hitters to bat over .300 for the 1926 season. Sam Cooper (8-5) and Ping Gardner (8-10) were the team’s leading pitchers. Harrisburg finished the season in second place in the ECL with a record of 25-17 (.595). The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants won the league title with a record of 34-20 (.630). The Harrisburg Giants also played in the Interstate League during the 1926 season. The Interstate League included three white teams (Allentown Dukes, Camden and Chester) and three teams from the Eastern Colored League (Bacharach Giants, Hilldale and Harrisburg).

The Harrisburg Giants started the 1927 season without the services of Rap Dixon who was still in Far East touring with the Philadelphia Royal Giants. It was an easy decision for Rap to go to Japan because Lonnie Goodwin was paying big salaries for the tour and the team owners back East were cutting salaries for the upcoming Eastern Colored League season. Dixon and the Negro League players who went on the tour seemed to take the attitude that they would worry about the repercussions of “jumping” the league when they returned home. When Dixon got back to the United States, he briefly played for the Philadelphia Cuban Stars before paying a small fine and being reinstated by the Harrisburg Giants and the Eastern Colored League.

The Harrisburg Giants got excellent team hitting during the 1927 season. According to research by John Holway, the Giants had six players in their starting line-up that batted over .300 for the season. These players were Clarence “Fats” Jenkins (.413), Rap Dixon (.375), John Beckwith (.362), Oscar Charleston (.342), Oscar “Heavy” Johnson (.336) and Walter “Rev” Cannady (.321). Harrisburg also got excellent pitching from Cliff Carter (18-9) and Daltie Cooper (18-11). Unfortunately for the Harrisburg Giants, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants put up another championship season. The Harrisburg Giants used a forfeit victory to claim the first half of the



Jesse Hubbard, Raleigh “Biz” Mackey, John Beckwith, Herbert “Rap” Dixon and Clint Thomas
Negro Leaguers in California – Winter of 1927-28

season, but Atlantic City refused to play Harrisburg for the title. For the third straight year, the Giants finished in second place in the final Eastern Colored League (ECL) season standings. Harrisburg had a final ECL season record of 41-32 (.562) and the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants won the championship with a record of 54-35 (.607) for the 1927 season.

Harrisburg dropped out of the Eastern Colored League before the start of the 1928 season to play an independent schedule. During the four years (1924-1927) that the Harrisburg Giants played in the Eastern Colored League, they compiled the second best record in the league's history. According to Robert Peterson in his book *Only the Ball was White* the composite won-loss records for teams that played in the Eastern Colored League from 1923 to 1927 were as follows:

Composite Standings for the Eastern Colored League (1923-1927)

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Hilldale	184	121	.616
Harrisburg Giants	129	95	.576
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	163	133	.551
Baltimore Black Sox	133	132	.505
Cuban Stars (East)	114	127	.473
New York Lincoln Giants	73	108	.403
Brooklyn Royal Giants	69	114	.377

After the Giants dropped out of the league, most of their star players signed with other teams. Rap Dixon and Ping Gardner signed with the Baltimore Black Sox. During the 1928 season Rap had the best hitting season of his career. His complete batting statistics for 1928 are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1928	Baltimore	69	259	58	100	16	8	13	58	21	.386	.660

The Black Sox also got excellent hitting from Jud Wilson (.423), Frank Warfield (.375) Bob Clark (.343) and Ben Taylor (.322). Unfortunately the only pitcher that delivered for Baltimore was Laymon Yokely (15-7). The Eastern Colored League disbanded in June and the Black Sox finished their season playing an independent schedule. In October of 1928 the Baltimore Black Sox played the Major League All Stars in a five game series. On October 14th Rap faced Lefty Grove and went three for four with a single, double and homerun. The Major League All Stars won the series three games to two.

Before the start of the 1929 baseball season the American Negro League was formed. The teams that played in the American Negro League (ANL) in 1929 and the final "league" standings were:

American Negro League (1929)

Team	Games	Record	Pct
Baltimore Black Sox	70	49-21	.700
New York Lincoln Giants	66	40-26	.606
Homestead Grays	63	34-29	.540
Hilldale Giants	74	39-35	.527
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	64	19-45	.298
Cuban Stars (East)	54	15-39	.278

George Rossiter, owner of the Baltimore Black Sox, was determined for his team to do well in the newly formed league. To accomplish this goal his first objective was signing his current stars. His second priority to bolster his roster was achieved by bringing in Frank Warfield (second base), Dick Lundy (shortstop) and Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (third base). These three "new" infielders joined Jud Wilson (first base) to form Baltimore's "Million Dollar Infield." Frank Warfield also served as Baltimore's manager. Rap Dixon was in the starting outfield for the Black Sox and helped lead them to the American Negro League title.



Baltimore Black Sox (1929)
(Dixon – seated first on left)

According to the research of Larry Lester and Dick Clark, Dixon's complete hitting statistics in 1929 for "league" games were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1929	Baltimore	44	156	40	59	7	5	8	43	10	.378	.641

When "league" and "non-league" games were added together, Negro League researcher John Holway compiled the following batting averages for Baltimore's top hitters: Rap Dixon (.432), Jud Wilson (.405), Pete Washington (.349), Dick Lundy (.336) and Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (.288). The Black Sox's top pitchers during the season were Laymon Yokley (19-11), Mervyn "Red" Ryan (9-3) and Willis "Pud" Flournoy (9-5). According to Holway, Rap finished among the American Negro League leaders in the following categories:

American Negro League Batting Leaders (1929)

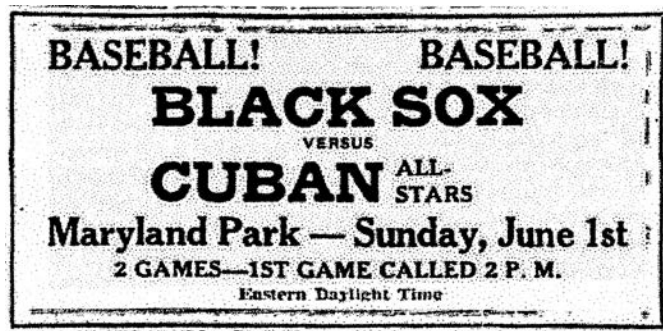
Batting Category	Dixon's Statistics	Rank in League
Batting Average	.432	3 rd
Homeruns	16	3 rd
Doubles	21	4 th
Triples	8	2 nd
Stolen Bases	25	2 nd



Afro American

08-10-29

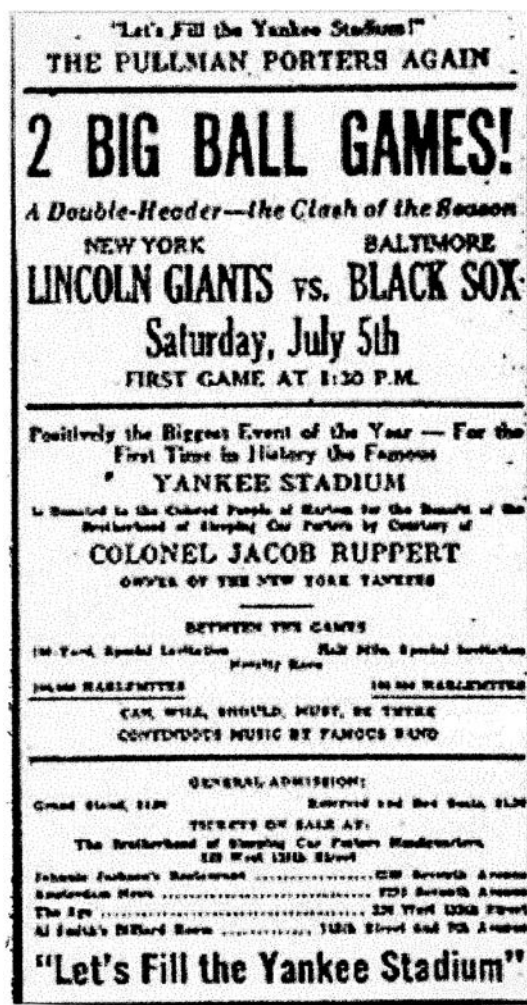
The highlight of Rap Dixon's career and one of the greatest achievements in baseball history began on July 21st (1929) in a doubleheader against the Homestead Grays. Over the span of four games, Rap collected 14 straight hits in 14 "official" at bats (streak also included two walks, one each by Sam Streeter and Smoky Joe Williams). Dixon went 3 for 3 in both games of the double header against the Grays. The streak continued on July 28th when the Black Sox met the Hilldale club for a doubleheader. Rap went 5 for 5 in the first game. In the second game he went 3 for 3. The streak finally ended on August 1st when Hilldale pitcher Daltie Cooper was finally able to get Dixon out. It is important to note that Rap Dixon's historic streak was accomplished against some of the best Negro League pitchers of his day. During his hitting streak, Rap faced Phil Cockrell (Hilldale), Sam Streeter (Homestead) and Smoky Joe Williams (Homestead). This feat is documented in the Philadelphia Tribune on August 1st and August 8th and the Baltimore Afro American in a news article with box scores that appeared in the paper on July 27th, August 3rd and August 10, 1929.



Baltimore Black Sox vs Cuban All Stars
Afro American (1930)

There was no formal league in the East for the 1930 season. All the major teams in the East played on an independent schedule basis. At the start of the Baltimore Black Sox's season, Rap was back in the starting lineup in the outfield. The Black Sox fielded a strong team in 1930 that included: Jud Wilson (.415), George "Mule" Suttles (.389), Rap Dixon (.375), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (.362), Dick Lundy (.344) and Dave "Showboat" Thomas (.340). Willis "Pud" Flourney was the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 11-2.

The Baltimore Black Sox won both halves of the split season with a record of 24-11 and 25-10. There was no World Series played between the winners of the American Negro League and Negro National League. After the end of the 1929 season the Baltimore Black Sox faced the Major League All Stars in a four game series. The Black Sox totally dominated the Major Leaguers and won all four games by the scores of 5-2, 8-3, 14-7 and 8-0.



Baltimore Black Sox vs New York Lincoln Giants
 Yankee Stadium (New York City, NY)
 07-06-30

The highlight of the black baseball season in 1930 occurred on July 6th when the Baltimore Black Sox met the New York Lincoln Giants in a doubleheader at Yankee Stadium in New York City. Twenty thousand (20,000) fans were on hand to witness this historic occasion. This marked the first time two black teams played each other in Yankee Stadium. The doubleheader was played as a benefit for the Brotherhood of Pullman Car Porters. Rap Dixon had the honor of being the first black ball player to hit a homerun in Yankee Stadium. Rap also added two more homeruns in the second game. Newspaper accounts of the two games also detailed several spectacular catches that Dixon made in the outfield. The Lincoln Giants won the first game by a score of 13-4 and the Black Sox won the second game 5-3 behind the hitting of Rap Dixon and the pitching of Laymon Yokely.

In the middle of July of 1930, Rap moved to the Chicago American Giants of the Negro National League. The Chicago American Giants only had a mediocre season and finished the year with a record of 47-53 (.470) which put them in fifth place in the final league standings. Researchers differ in how productive Rap was for Chicago. Larry Lester and Dick Clark have Rap at .267 (29 for 109) for the American Giants and John Holway credits Dixon with a .303 batting average for Chicago.

The Chicago American Giants picked up Oscar Charleston and several other players after the regular season to play the Major League All Stars in a four game exhibition series. The exhibition series was played at the Giants home ball park in Chicago. The first game of the series was played on October 3rd with the final game played on October 6th. Led by the hitting of Charleston and Dixon, the American Giants beat the Major League All Stars three games to one.

After only one season in the West, Rap Dixon moved back to the East to play for Hilddale for the 1931 season. After two consecutive seasons of financial losses, Ed Bolden (owner of the Hilddale club) was forced to sell the team to John Drew. The first thing that Drew did was rename the team. The new edition of Hilddale was known as the “Daisies.” The new owner of Hilddale was confronted with the job of having to rebuild the entire team in order to make it a financial success. John Drew’s plan for bringing winning baseball back to Hilddale was as follows:

1. Re-institute salaries for the ball players. (Due to tight finances, Bolden had been paying the players on a percentage basis.)
2. Purchase Hilddale Park and spent \$ 14,000 on improvements.
3. Purchase two new large cars for the team to use on road trips.
4. Arrange for the local radio station (WELK) to broadcast Hilddale news.
5. Re-sign the best players from the team he had just bought. His key signings from the 1930 Hilddale squad were Biz Mackey, Phil Cockrell, William “Eggie” Dallard, Chaney White, Webster Mc Donald, Paul Carter, Oscar Levis and Porter Charleston.
6. Bring back players who had been successful with Hilddale in the past but had left to join other teams. The top players Drew brought back to Hilddale were Judy Johnson, Martin Dihigo, Walter “Rev” Cannady, Bill Yancey, Paul “Jake” Stephens and Jesse “Nip” Winters.
7. Finally, sign Rap Dixon to solidify the outfield.



Drew’s plan was very successful. The Hilddale team won on a consistent basis. They regularly beat all levels of competition and were, along with the Homestead Grays, considered one of the two best “black” teams in the East during the 1931 season. Hilddale finished the year with an overall record of 120-31-4 (.798). The team was 42-13 (.764) against the top level teams they played during the season. Winning baseball brought the fans back to the park. Attendance at Hilddale Park increased from 652 fans per game in 1930 to 1,108 in 1931. John Drew also brought credibility and good will back to the Hilddale baseball team in the local community.

Statistics for the 1931 Hilddale season are incomplete. In the 50 games that the Daisies played against top level competition, Rap had a sub-par season and batted only .269 with a .360 slugging percentage. Biz Mackey (.359), Webster McDonald (.370) and Eggie Dallard (.313) were the leading hitters for the team. The top pitchers for Hilddale were Phil Cockrell (23-3), Porter Charleston (11-4) and Webster McDonald (9-1).

In October of 1931 Rap played for both the Baltimore Black Sox and Hilddale when the two teams faced a team of Major League All Stars in an exhibition series. In a game against the Major League All Stars that was played on October 4th, Dixon went 2 for 4.

Herbert “Rap” Dixon
Negro League Star



Oscar Charleston, Rap Dixon, Josh Gibson Judy Johnson and Jud Wilson
Pittsburgh Crawfords

Dixon signed with the Pittsburgh Crawfords before the start of the 1932 baseball season. The Pittsburgh Crawfords were owned by William “Gus” Greenlee who was very successful in the numbers racket and was determined to transition that success into baseball. Greenlee’s solution was very simple - go out and sign the best players possible. Gus opened his wallet and put together formidable roster. The first thing he did was sign his star players from the 1931 team. These players included Jimmy Crutchfield, Satchel Paige, Bill Perkins, Sam Streeter and Harry Williams. With the nucleus of his roster in place, Greenlee raided other teams and signed James “Cool Papa” Bell, William Bell, Oscar Charleston, Rap Dixon, Frank Duncan, Josh Gibson, Judy Johnson, Ted Page, Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe, Paul “Jake” Stephens and Jud Wilson. The 1932 Pittsburgh Crawfords are considered as one of the best teams in the history of Negro League baseball. The team included six players (Bell, Charleston, Gibson, Johnson, Paige and Wilson) that have been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

The Crawfords were an associate member of the newly formed East-West League, but played most of their season on an independent schedule basis. Greenlee’s strategy for the Crawfords 1932 season was very simple - keep the team on the road and book as many games as possible. Pittsburgh opened its season on March 25th in Monroe (LA). From March through July 21st they played 94 games with 13 rainouts in 109 days. The Crawfords only had two open dates during this stretch of the season. The players logged over 17,000 miles on their team bus during the season as they toured all over the South and East.

Dixon led the 1932 Crawfords in hitting with a .317 batting average. Rap also had a slugging percentage of .488. Other notable hitters for the Crawfords for the 1932 season were Oscar Charleston (.313), Bill Perkins (.304) and Josh Gibson (.303). Pittsburgh’s pitching staff was anchored by Satchel Paige (23-7), Ted “Double Duty” Radcliffe (15-8) and William Bell (8-5).

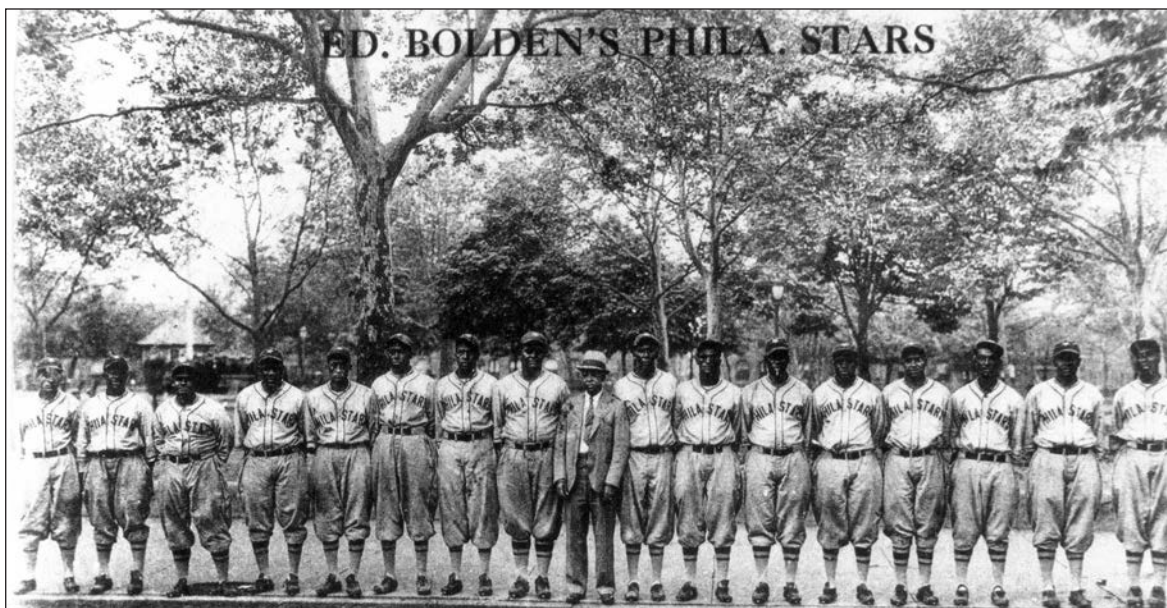
The EVENT of Events
FIRST TIME IN WASHINGTON
NIGHT BASEBALL
 Game Called: 8:30 p.m.
Griffith Stadium 7th & Fla. Ave. Wash., D.C.
Pittsburg Crawfords
 vs.
Washington Pilots
 in a three-game series
Mon. Wed. Fri.
July 25 27 29
 Featuring: Oscar Charleston, the great one hand First Baseman.
 Satchell Page, the Canon ball Pitcher
 Admission, with tax 25c, 55c, 80c, boxes \$1.10

Pittsburgh Crawfords vs Washington Pilots
 East-West League

At the end of the season, the Pittsburgh Crawfords had a record of 32-26 (.552) against East-West League teams and a record of 99-36 (.733) against all levels of competition. The Baltimore Black Sox won the East-West League championship title with a record of 20-9 (.690).

After the 1932 regular season, the Pittsburg Crawfords continued to barnstorm. The highlight of their post season play was a seven game series against Casey Stengel's All Stars. Behind the pitching of William Bell (3-0), Satchel Paige (1-0) and Sam Streeter (1-0) they defeated the Stengel All Stars five game to two. The leading hitters for the Pittsburgh Crawfords were Jake Stephens (.444), Bill Perkins, (.429), Ted Page (.400), Josh Gibson (.333) and Jimmie Crutchfield (.333)

Before the start of the 1933 season, Rap was on the move and changed teams for the fifth year in a row. Dixon signed with the newly formed Philadelphia Stars. The team was owned and operated by Ed Bolden. They played an independent schedule during the 1933 baseball season. For the twenty-four (24) box scores that have been found for games in which Rap played for the Stars, Dixon had a batting average of .370. Philadelphia had a strong hitting line-up that besides Dixon (.370) included Jud Wilson (.416), Jake Stephens (.321), Chaney White (.318) and Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.298). Webster McDonald was the ace of the Philadelphia Stars pitching staff.

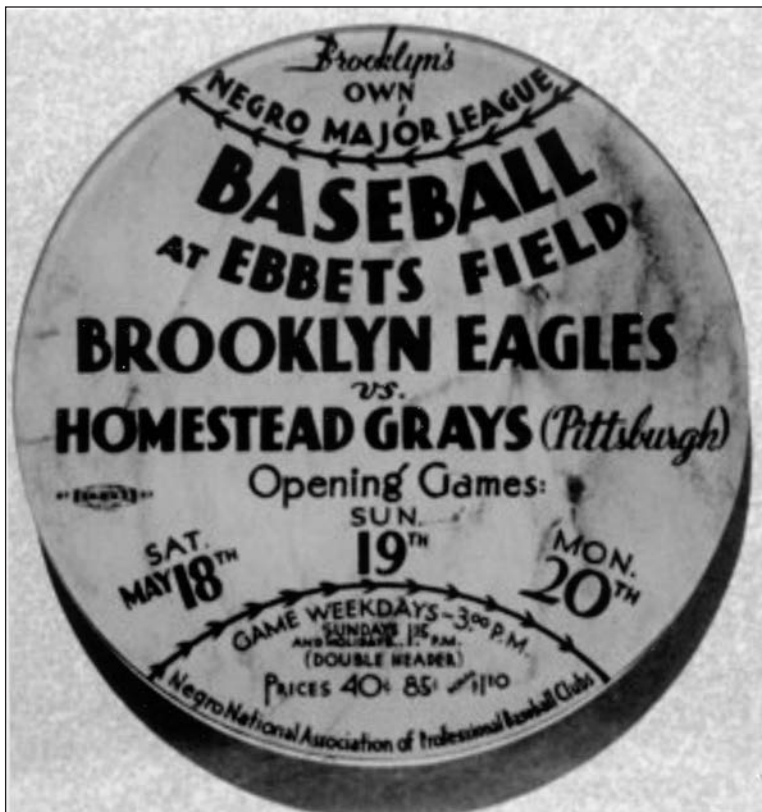


Philadelphia Stars
 (Dixon – seventh from the right)

In 1933 the first ever East-West All Star game was held. The game was played on September 10th in Comiskey Park in Chicago (IL). Rap Dixon was selected as the East's squad's starting right fielder. In an 11 to 7 loss to the West, Rap scored two runs and is credited with the first stolen base in the East-West classic's history.

Dixon started the 1934 baseball season by traveling to Venezuela in January with Josh Gibson to play for Concordia. During the team's tour of Puerto Rico, he was seriously injured while sliding into a base. Immediately upon his return to the United States he was admitted into a hospital in Philadelphia. Dixon was still in the hospital when the season started and received his release from the Philadelphia Stars while he was still in his hospital bed.

Rap was back in the Negro Leagues in the summer to join his brother (Paul) to play for the Baltimore Black Sox of the Negro National League. This version of the Black Sox was owned and operated by Jack Farrell who had made his money in the numbers business. The team played out of Chester, Pennsylvania. Rap Dixon briefly managed the Black Sox in 1934 and is credited with signing Leon Day to his first professional contract. By mid August Dixon had moved to the Pittsburgh Crawfords who also played in the Negro National League. At the end of the season, Dixon was selected to represent the Crawfords in the second annual East-West All Star game. He took over in left field for Vic Harris and went one for two in the East's 1-0 victory over the West.



Brooklyn Eagles
1935

In the fall of 1934 Rap Dixon, Josh Gibson and Dick Seay joined the Brooklyn Eagles when they traveled to Puerto Rico. The Eagles barnstormed all over the island playing the top local teams.

The Brooklyn Eagles with Ben Taylor as their manager joined the Negro National League before the start of the 1935 season and Rap was in the starting line-up in the outfield. The Eagles played their home games in Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, New York. From the limited number of box scores that Larry Lester and Dick Clark have uncovered, Dixon hit .310 for the season in games against "league" teams. Negro League researcher John Holway has Rap leading the team with a .395 batting average for the season. The other top hitters for Brooklyn for the 1935 season were Bob Griffith (.440), Jose "Blue" Perez (.352), George Giles (.345), Ed Stone, Ted Page and Harry Williams (.331). Leon Day was the team's top pitcher with a 9-4 record.

Dixon also played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords when they played against the Dizzy Dean All Stars after the 1935 regular season had concluded.

Rap Dixon signed with the Homestead Grays of the Negro National League for the 1936 season. Homestead was led by the hitting of Henry Spearman (.350), Ray Brown (.340), Vic Harris (.315), Jelly Jackson (.306) and Clarence "Spoony" Palm (.300). Ray Brown (8-6) and Tom Parker (7-6) were the Grays' two best pitchers during the season. According to research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark, Rap was leading the Grays in hitting with a .368 batting average when he was traded to the Newark Eagles in July. Dixon finished the season with the Newark Eagles and helped lead them to a second place finish in the Negro National League with a 30-29 (.508) record. The Pittsburgh Crawfords finished the season with a 36-24 (.600) record which was good enough to win the Negro National League title.



Brooklyn Eagles
Negro National League
(Dixon – fifth from left)

Dixon's only appearance in the Negro National League in 1937 was a short stint with the Pittsburgh Crawfords as a pinch hitter. This was Rap Dixon's final appearance as a player in the Negro Leagues.

After he left the Pittsburgh Crawfords, Rap Dixon became the manager of the Trujillo All Stars. When the Negro League ball players that had participated in the 1937 Dominican League season returned to the United States, they were still banned by the Negro National League officials. The renegade players formed their own team and played a barnstorming schedule under the following names: Trujillo All Stars, Dominican All Stars and the Negro League All Stars. The roster for the Trujillo All Stars team was as follows:

Trujillo All Stars (1937)

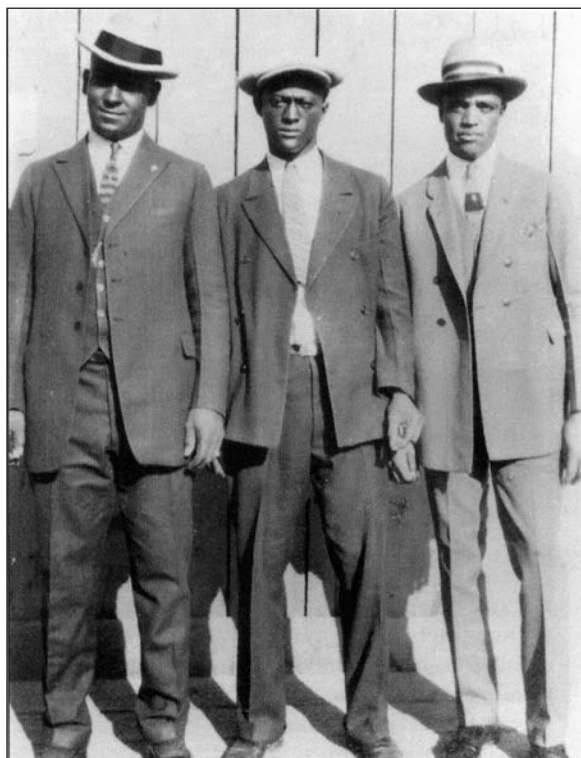
Position	Player	Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Dave Thomas	C	Clarence "Spoony" Palm	P	Satchel Paige
2B	Harry Williams	OF	James "Cool Pappa" Bell	P	Leroy Matlock
SS	Sam Bankhead	OF	Clyde Spearman	P	Chet Brewer
3B	Andy Patterson	OF	Roy Parnell	P	Robert Griffith
C	Bill Perkins			P	Ernest Carter

The highlight of their United States barnstorming tour was playing in the Denver Post Tournament and winning the prestigious event. It is not totally clear if Rap stayed with the team for their entire season. In the pre tournament roster and paperwork that the team sent to the Denver Post Tournament officials, they list Rap Dixon as their manager. In addition when James "Cool Pappa" Bell related his account of the fight that he got into with a player from the Pampa Oilers, he recalled that it was Rap Dixon who got between himself and the opposing Pampa player. Unfortunately, Dixon doesn't appear in the team photo from the tournament and is not mentioned in any of the newspaper articles from the event.

California Winter League

After the conclusion of the 1925 Eastern Colored League season, Dixon traveled to California to play for the Philadelphia Royal Giants in Joe Pirrone's California Winter League. There were three "white" teams (White King Soapsters, Pirrone's All Stars and Shell Oil) and one "black" team (Philadelphia Royal Giants) in the league. Pirrone always included at least one "black team" in the league to improve the quality of play and bolster the league's fan base.

The Philadelphia Royal Giants were owned and operated by Lonnie Goodwin. The Royal Giants were literally an all star team from the Eastern Colored League. Philadelphia's leading hitters for the 1925-26 season were Crush Holloway (.371), Jess Hubbard (.347), George "Tank" Carr (.342), Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.329) and Wilbur "Bullet Joe" Rogan (.326). Rap Dixon hit .271 for the season with a .443 slugging percentage. Bullet Rogan was the ace of the pitching staff with a 14-2 (.875) record. Rogan led the league in games pitched (18), complete games (16), wins (14), innings pitched (153) and strikeouts (82).



Neil Pullen, Rap Dixon and Crush Holloway
California Winter League

The White Kings took the first half of the 1925-26 season with a 6-4 (.600) record and the Philadelphia Royal Giants won the second half with a record of 14-7 (.667). The two teams met in a three game playoff series to determine the winner of the league title. The series received a tremendous amount of excitement because the white Kings had defeated the Royal Giants in seven of their twelve meetings during the regular season. The championship series started on February 20th and concluded on February 22nd. The Philadelphia Royal Giants defeated the White King Soapsters in three straight games by the scores of 5-1, 12-7 and 12-5 to capture the California Winter League championship title. The Royal Giants finished the season with a record of 24-15-3 (.615).

The next winter, Rap Dixon returned to California for the 1926-27 California Winter League season. The 1926-27 season included the Philadelphia Royal Giants, Shell Oil, White King Soapsters and Pirrone's All Stars. The leading hitters for the Royal Giants were Turkey Stearnes (.387), Rap Dixon (.349), Neal Pullen (.343), Bullet Joe Rogan (.328) and Raleigh "Biz" Mackey (.316). Philadelphia's pitching staff included George Harney (7-5), Willie Foster (6-0), Bullet Joe Rogan (6-2) and Andy Cooper (5-2).

The Royal Giants got off to a slow start, but went 13-1-1 during the second half of the season. At the end of the season, the Philadelphia Royal Giants were crowned the league champions with a 26-11-1 (.703) record.

The 1927-28 California Winter League season almost never happened for the Philadelphia Royal Giants. Originally, Major League Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis had placed a ban on all minor league players participating in winter league baseball. This would have resulted in a cancellation of the California Winter League season. The initial ban as reported by the Pittsburgh Courier on October 13th was not as serious as originally thought. The season opened on October 15th with the Royal Giants playing Joe Pirrone's All Stars before a packed White Sox Park. The 1927-28 California Winter League season included two "black" teams (Philadelphia Royal Giants and Cleveland Stars) and two "white" teams (Pirrone's All Stars and

Orange County). The Philadelphia Royal Giants had been purchased in the off season by James P. White who had been the General Manager of the Colored All-Stars during their 1921-22 California Winter League championship season. The new owner of the Royal Giants was also granted the lease to White Sox Park where the Negro League teams played all their home games. The top hitters for Philadelphia during the 1927-28 season were Jess Hubbard (.442), Biz Mackey (.385), Rap Dixon (.380), Tank Carr (.377) and John Beckwith (.310). Rap Dixon had an excellent season. Besides hitting .380 he also led the league in slugging percentage (.772), hits (30), doubles (6) and triples (3). His complete statistics for the season were:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1927-28	Philadelphia	20	79	-	30	6	3	5	-	-	.380	.722

Bill Holland led the Royal Giants pitching staff with 7-2 record with four shutouts.

The other “black” team in the league was the Cleveland Stars. They featured the hitting of Frank Duncan (.381), Turkey Stearnes (.377), Dink Mothel (.352) and Willie Wells (.313). Andy Cooper (5-1) was the ace of the Cleveland’s pitching staff.

The Philadelphia Royal Giants won their third straight California Winter League championship in a row. They finished the season with a 19-11-2 (.633) record and the Cleveland Stars finished the season in second place with a 10-8 (.556) record.

The Philadelphia Royal Giants did not field a team for the 1928-29 season. They were replaced in the California Winter League by the Cleveland Giants. One of the key players that the Giants recruited for the season was Rap Dixon. Cleveland fielded a devastating line-up that included:

Cleveland Giants (1928-29)

Player	Position	Average	Player	Position	Average
Biz Mackey	1B	.459	Turkey Stearnes	OF	.372
Connie Day	2B	.260	Rap Dixon	OF	.360
Newt Allen	SS	.365	Dink Mothel	OF	.280
John Beckwith	3B	.485			
Neal Pullen	C	.368	Bullet Rogan	P	.406

The Cleveland Royal Giants posted an amazing team batting average of .371 for the season. Chet Brewer (14-4) and Bullet Joe Rogan (9-1) were the team’s leading pitchers. Brewer also led the league in games (18), complete games (13), shutouts (3), innings pitched (146) and strikeouts (73).

The Cleveland Giants dominated play during the season to the point that none of the other three teams (Shell Oil, Pirrone’s All Stars and White Kings) in the league could post a won-loss record above .500 for the season. Cleveland won the league title with a record of 30-13-2 (.698).

Rap Dixon made his final appearance in winter baseball in California when he signed to play for the Philadelphia Royal Giants in the “Other” California Winter League for the 1930-31 season. Dixon appeared in only 15 games with 51 at bats and had a batting average of .275.

There were two different winter leagues that played in California during the 1930-31 season. Joe Pirrone’s California Winter League was won by the Nashville Elite Giants (33-10-2). The “Other” California Winter League that Rap played in included the Royal Giants and three “white” teams (Shell Oil, Commercial Club and Kelley Kars). The Royal Giants dropped the first game of the season to Kelly Kars by a score of 2-1. After this initial loss they were virtually unstoppable. The Royal Giants finished the season with a record of 28-1-1 (.966). Ironically the Kelly Kars team that had beaten in the league opener didn’t win another game all season and finished in last place in the final league standings with a record of 1-18-1(.053). The leading hitters for the Royal

Giants during the season were George “Mule” Suttles (.474), Jud Wilson (.469), Biz Mackey (.419) and Chaney White (.328). Philadelphia’s pitching staff was un-hittable all season. The team’s top pitchers included Willie Foster (9-0), Andy Cooper (5-0), George Britton (4-1), Chet Brewer (2-0) and Porter Charleston (3-1). Willie Foster also led the league in games (11), complete games (7), wins (9), shutouts (1), innings pitched (68) and strikeouts (53).

Rap Dixon played a total of five (5) seasons in the California Winter League. He had a career batting average of .326 in the league. His .326 career batting average places him in the 10th spot of the all time career batting average leaders for the California Winter League. In addition, Rap helped lead every team he played for to a California Winter League championship title.



Philadelphia Royal Giants

Neil Pullen, Johnson, Raleigh “Biz” Mackey and Lonnie Goodwin

Tour of the Far East

After the Philadelphia Royal Giants had concluded their 1926-27 California Winter League season, Lonnie Goodwin, the owner of the team, put together an all star squad to play an exhibition schedule in the Far East. The tour was promoted by Japanese-American baseball pioneer Kenichi Zenimura. The team included Biz Mackey (Hilldale), Rap Dixon (Harrisburg Giants), Frank Duncan (Kansas City Monarchs), Andy Cooper (Detroit Stars), Neal Pullen (Philadelphia Royal Giants), Bob Fagan (Kansas City Monarchs) and several players from Zenimura’s own Fresno Athletic Club. The team left Los Angeles on March 9th aboard the Japanese ocean liner the *La Plata*. Goodwin’s team played the tour under the name of the Philadelphia Royal Giants. Their first game was played in Tokyo (Japan) on April 1st against the Mita club. The Royal Giants won the game by a score of 2-0. According to Japanese baseball historian Kazuo Sayama, the Philadelphia Royal Giants compiled a record of 47-1 during their tour. The Royal Giants only loss came to the Daimai Club with Japanese star pitcher Michimaro Ono. Sayama’s research indicates that the Royal Giants were very respectful of the Japanese fans and their opponents. In addition it appears that Philadelphia refrained from running the scores up on their less skilled opponents. In an open letter that Goodwin sent to the Japanese fans, he praised the Japanese baseball teams they faced for their sound baseball fundamentals, use of the sacrifice bunt, “crafty” pitching and team play.



Biz Mackey and Japanese Player
Japanese Tour - Game Program
1927

In April Rap Dixon hit what has been reported as one of the longest homeruns ever hit in Japan. During the exhibition tour of Japan, Emperor of Japan Hirohito presented Rap Dixon with a trophy cup commemorating his historic blast. The Philadelphia Royal Giants stayed in Japan until May 17th. From Japan they traveled to Korea for several games against local teams. Reportedly the team stopped in the Philippines and Hawaii on their way back to the United States and played several games against military teams and local competition. The team arrived back in Los Angeles on July 8th. Unfortunately for the Philadelphia Royal Giants players, they missed the start of the Eastern Colored League and Negro National League seasons. Originally there was talk of suspending each of the players for five years. Fortunately, after a short thirty (30) day suspension and \$ 50 fine for missing the start of the season, all the players returned to their "league" teams and finished the regular season.

The tour was very successful for Lonnie Goodwin and the Philadelphia Royal Giants. The Negro Leaguers and American baseball were also very well received in Japan. The Royal Giants tour in 1927 paved the way for other Negro League and Major League teams (most notably an all star team led by Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig) to visit Japan.

Cuban Winter League Career

After the 1929 American Negro League season had concluded, Rap joined fellow Negro Leaguers Larry Brown (catcher), Martin Dihigo (outfield and pitcher), Dick Lundy (shortstop) and Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (third base) to travel to Cuba to play for the Almendares Alacranes for the 1929-30 Cuban Winter League season. Almendares was managed by Jose Rodriguez. The Negro Leaguers imported by Almendares did not have particularly strong seasons. Dick Lundy led the group in hitting with a .333 batting average. Dixon had a very mediocre season and finished the winter league campaign with a .263 batting average and a .474 slugging percentage.

Almendares wasn't the only Cuban team to sign Negro League players. All four teams in the league brought Negro League players to the island. Unfortunately for the owners of the Alacranes, Negro League players Alejandro Oms (Santa Clara) won the league's batting title (.380), George "Mule" Suttles (Santa Clara) led the league in homeruns (7), Charles "Chino" Smith (Habana) led the league in hits (67) and triples (7) and James "Cool Papa" Bell (Cienfuegos) led the league in doubles (14) and runs scored (52). The Cuban Winter League season began play on November 26, 1929 and concluded on January 23, 1930. Cienfuegos won the Cuban Winter League title, eight games ahead of the Alacranes who finished the season in third place in the league with a record of 23-26 (.469).

Venezuelan Career

Rap Dixon and Josh Gibson traveled to Venezuela in January of 1934 to play for Concordia. The Concordia team is considered one of the best Latin teams of all time. The team included Luis Aparicio Ortega, (shortstop), Marcelino “Moncho Brujo” Blondet (pitcher), Martin Dihigo (outfield), Josh Gibson (catcher), Manuel “Pollo” Malpica, Johnny Mize (first base), Pedro Alejandro San (pitcher) and Juan “Tetelo” Vargas (third base).

From January through March of 1934, Concordia toured the Caribbean, playing exhibition games in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. During their barnstorming tour of the Dominican Republic in January and February, they played games against the two top teams on the island (Escogido Leones and Licey Tigres) and were invited to play in the prestigious Copa Trujillo tournament. Concordia won the Copa Trujillo trophy with a 6-3 record. After the Copa Trujillo tournament, Concordia traveled to Puerto Rico to play the top local teams on the island as well as a series against the Almendares Alacranes team from Cuba.

Life After the Negro Leagues

Dixon’s career in the Negro Leagues ended in 1937. After he left the Pittsburgh Crawfords he returned home to Steelton (PA). In addition to working for Bethlehem Steel, Rap continued to play baseball with local teams and manage. Rap and his brother Paul played for the Strothers A.C. club during the late 1930’s and early 1940’s. Dixon also coached the Harrisburg Giants team in 1942. In 1943 Dixon took over as manager of the team from Charley Taylor. The 1943 version of the Harrisburg Giants were an integrated team that played other local semipro teams. During the early 1940’s Rap along with local pharmacist Bud Marshall promoted Negro National League games at Island Park in Harrisburg. In 1944 Rap was hired to manage the Detroit Stars.

Passing of a Legend

Herbert Albert “Rap” Dixon passed away on July 20, 1944 in Detroit (Wayne County), Michigan. Dixon was only 41 years of age. He collapsed while riding on a street car in Detroit. His cause of death was listed as a heart attack. He was laid to rest at Midland Cemetery in his hometown of Steelton, Pennsylvania. On June 8, 2007 a memorial monument celebrating the baseball accomplishments of Herbert “Rap” Dixon was dedicated at his gravesite in Steelton.



Herbert “Rap” Dixon Memorial

Assessing Herbert “Rap” Dixon’s Career

- Researchers differ in their career statistics for Rap Dixon, but all do agree that he was a solid .300 hitter over the course of his career. The following chart lists the research of five major researchers for the yearly and career batting averages of Dixon.

	Larry Lester And Dick Clark	Committee on African American Baseball	MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia	John Holway	James Riley	Difference
1924	.262	.265	.220	.252	-	45
1925	.344	.344	.357	.358	.357	14
1926	.348	.310	.358	.274	.358	84
1927	.260	.255	.229	.375	-	146
1928	.386	.382	.351	.326	.351	60
1929	.378	.369	.382	.432	.432	63
1930	.276	.283	.239	.375/.303	-	136
1931	.269	.250	.229	.251	-	40
1932	.317	.317	.310	.280/.163	.343	63
1933	.370	.370	.368	.374	.310	64
1934	.121	.121	.400	-	-	279
1935	.310	.310	.308	.395	.344	87
1936	.321	.305	-	.450	-	145
At Bats	1954	1798	1621	2330	-	709
Hits	628	566	493	688	-	195
Career Batting Avg	.321	.315	.304	.309	.340	36

* Yearly and career batting averages differ because each researcher has a different number of box scores he analyzed. In addition some researchers only count “league” games, while other researchers count “league” and “non-league” games together. For years in which two batting averages are listed, this reflects averages for two different teams that season.

- Our research has uncovered box scores from 23 games that Dixon played against Major and Minor League all star teams. In these 23 games he had 83 at bats and collected 34 hits for a .410 batting average and a slugging percentage of .687.
- We are missing a significant number of Rap Dixon’s hitting statistics. Over the course of his career Dixon played hundreds of games against “non-league” teams. Currently we have found only 46 box scores for these “non-league” games. In these 46 games Rap had 176 at bats and collected 72 hits for a .409 batting average and a .580 slugging percentage. In addition we are missing all of his statistics for his years prior to beginning his Negro League career when he played local baseball, his West Coast barnstorming, Japanese tour, Puerto Rican tour and most all of his Venezuelan numbers. Currently, we have only a snap shot of Rap Dixon’s career and productivity as a professional baseball player, but from what we have been able to find there is no doubt that Herbert “Rap” Dixon was an outstanding hitter.
- One of the problems that researchers have had in researching Rap Dixon’s career is that his younger brother Paul also played in the Negro Leagues and sometimes the two have been mixed up. Some researchers credit Rap Dixon with having played for the 1932 Washington Pilots and for the New York Cubans in 1935 during their championship run, while it was actually Paul who played for these two teams.



Baltimore vs Camden
05-25-30

Paul Dixon played in the Negro Leagues from 1931 to 1938. During his Negro League career Paul played for the following teams.

Year	Team	League
1931	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Independent
1932`	Baltimore Black Sox	East-West League
1932	Newark Browns	East-West League
1932	Washington Pilots	East-West League
1934	Baltimore Black Sox	Negro National League
1934	Washington Pilots	Independent
1935	New York Cubans	Negro National League
1936	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent
1936	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Independent
1937-1938	Philadelphia Stars	Negro National League

The Dixon brothers even played together on the 1934 Baltimore Black Sox and for the Strothers A.C. and Harrisburg Giants during the late 1930's through the mid 1940's.

- When analyzing Rap Dixon's playing career, it is also important to look at his behavioral issues and personality traits that impacted his play on the field. Dixon is known to have had a problem with alcohol his entire career. His drinking undoubtedly would have affected his performance on the field of play and how he was viewed by team owners. In addition, he reportedly developed a reputation for being very temperamental and was often complacent with how he approached his responsibilities to the team for which he was playing. Over the years it appears that Dixon developed a reputation as a "hard case" and that limited the number of teams that were willing to sign him. An excellent example of this occurred after the 1928-29 California Winter League season when Dixon found himself broke and stranded in California. Stories are that only the Hilldale club was willing to take a gamble on signing him. Hilldale was motivated by the fact that they were totally restructuring their entire team (and Rap still could play and produce) and that Judy Johnson, the team's manager; felt he knew how to handle the temperamental Dixon.

In addition to his behavioral and personality problems, Rap also suffered from both a significant injury and illness that severely impacted his ability to play and the length of his career. When Dixon was playing winter ball in Puerto Rico, he injured his back sliding into second base. The injury resulted in Rap spending the first half of the next baseball season (1934) in a hospital in Philadelphia. Without any doubt a back injury that required that long of a hospitalization left him with a chronic back problem that he would have suffered for the rest of his life. To make matters even worse for Dixon, in the mid 1930's he was diagnosed with consumption which is a progressive wasting away of the human body from in his case most likely pulmonary tuberculosis. With a debilitating condition like consumption and a chronic back problem, Rap would never have been able to play up to his prior level of performance and would not have been able to play and be productive on a fulltime basis. If in fact Rap was prone to drinking, his chronic pain and poor physical condition would have compounded the problem. In addition Rap suffered from significant dental problems in the later years of his career. These dental problems left Dixon in excruciating pain on a regular basis. According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Afro American on May 27, 1935, Rap's dental problems were resolved.

Rap Dixon's health issues finally caught up with him in Detroit when he suffered a massive fatal heart attack. He was only 41 years of age.

- Even with all of his behavioral and health problems, it is important to note that Rap Dixon was a complete ball player. He could hit, hit with power, run, field and throw. Physically he could do it all when he was in his prime.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
mid 1910's to early 1920's	Keystone Giants	Independent
	Steelton Giants	Independent
	Bacharach Giants (Atlantic City)	Independent
1916	Keystone Giants	Independent
1922-1923	Harrisburg Giants	Independent
1924	Washington Potomacs	Eastern Colored League
1924-1926	Harrisburg Giants	Eastern Colored League
1926	Harrisburg Giants	Interstate League
1927	Philadelphia Cuban Stars	Independent
1927	Harrisburg Giants	Eastern Colored League
1928	Baltimore Black Sox	Eastern Colored League
1928-1929	Baltimore Black Sox	Independent
1929	Baltimore Black Sox	American Negro League
1930	Baltimore Black Sox	Independent
1930	Chicago American Giants	Negro National League
1931	Hilldale Daisies	Independent
1932	Pittsburgh Crawfords	East West League (Associate Member)
1932	Pittsburgh Crawfords	Independent
1933	Philadelphia Stars	Independent
1934	Baltimore Black Sox	Negro National League
1934	Pittsburgh Crawfords	Negro National League
1935	Brooklyn Eagles	Negro National League
1936	Homestead Grays	Negro National League
1936	Newark Eagles	Negro National League
1937	Pittsburgh Crawfords	Negro National League
1937	Trujillo All Stars (Manager)	Independent
early 1940's	Strothers A.C.	Independent
1942	Harrisburg Giants (Coach)	Independent
1943	Harrisburg Giants (Manager)	Independent
1944	Detroit Stars (Manager)	Independent

Winter Leagues:

1925-26	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League
1926	Harrisburg Giants	Series vs New York-Penn League All Stars
1926-27	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League
1927	Philadelphia Royal Giants	Tour of the Far East
1927-28	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League
1928	Baltimore Black Sox	Game vs Poke Whalen's All Stars
1928	Baltimore Black Sox	Five Game series vs Major League All Stars
1928	Baltimore Black Sox	Two Game Series vs Fritz Maisel's All Stars
1928-29	Cleveland Giants	California Winter League
1929	Baltimore Black Sox	Four Game Series vs Major League All Stars
1929	Baltimore Black Sox	Series vs Fred Maisel's International All Stars
1929-30	Almendares Alacranes	Cuban Winter League
1930	Chicago American Giants	Four Game Series vs Major League All Stars
1930-31	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League
1931	Hilldale	Five Game Series vs Major League All Stars
1931	Baltimore Black Sox	Exhibition Series vs Major League All Stars
1932	Pittsburg Crawfords	Seven Game Series vs Casey Stengel's All Stars
1934	Concordia	Tour of Dominican Republic
1934	Concordia	Copa Trujillo Tournament (Dominican Republic)
1934	Concordia	Puerto Rican Tour
1934	Concordia	Series vs Almendares (Puerto Rico)
1934	Brooklyn Eagles	Puerto Rican Tour
1935	Pittsburgh Crawfords	Series vs Dizzy Dean's All Stars
1935	Colored League All Stars	Game vs Dizzy Dean's All Stars

Rap Dixon Sets Consecutive Hits Record with Fourteen (14)

This article and box scores appeared in the Baltimore Afro American on August 3, 1929. It documents the second two games of Rap Dixon's historic batting streak.

DIXON'S BAT BOOMS AS SOX ANNEX PAIR

Hits Safely 8 Times in as
Many Up; Daisies Droop
by 11-4 and 7-4 Scores.

SOX FIELD WELL

Marcell, Washington, Thrill;
Hilldale Has Six Errors.

By S. B. WILKINS.



AP DIXON blasted out hits like a charge of TNT as the local Black Sox trampled the Hilldale outfit in two games here Sunday. The Alpha ended 11-4 and the abbreviated Omega went to the Sox by a 7-4 score.

Riding the apple for fourteen safeties out of fourteen consecutive times at bat, during which he faced five different fingers, Dixon, easily proved the hero of the day. His smashing orgy began July 21 during the Homestead Grays' series, when his willow connected with the slants of Streeter for one single and two doubles out of three times up; two singles and one double donated by Smoky Joe; and last Sunday, two singles off of Cockrell, and two singles and a home run off of Cooper in the first game for a total of five out of five.

In the second contest, he added one double and two singles to his collection, for a total of nine singles, four doubles and one home run. To give flavor to these bingles, he has been donated two free passes, one by Williams, the other by Streeter. He has batted in a total of eight runs and himself scored four times.

SOX SCORE FIRST.

In the first game Sunday, the Sox were the first to score, when, in the second frame Clark doubled to right to score Lundy from second. They added two in the second, two in the third, one in the fifth and five in the seventh.

The Darbyites made their first tally in the sixth when Holloway doubled and Charleston flew to Washington who returned the ball to Clark, but Clark failed to get his mask off in time to see the ball and cut off the score. They made three count in the ninth in an attempted rally which fell short. In this frame Dihigo, Cooper, Holloway and Warmack each touched Yokely for a single.

In the fourth the fans saw Washington "walk" a mile to snare Charleston's fly to center-right.

Burbage and Warfield each donated a triple to the total of fifteen base hits garnered by the Sox.

CHARLTON THROWS.

In the fifth star Marcel was given the artificial flowers when he caught Mackey's fly over the bleacher fence in left. In snaring the ball, Marcel went head first over the fence and all could be seen were his feet and gloved hand holding the ball. This was the thrill of the first game; the surprise came when Yokely connected with one of Cooper's offerings in the fifth for a single, his only hit of the day.

Marcel also had a good day at bat, getting one out of four in the first contest and three out of three in the second contest.

With two down and two strikes on him, Dixon sent the pill over left field fence for a home run with Wilson on, in the seventh.

FLOURNOY IN FORM.

Pitching masterful baseball in the abbreviated nightcap, Flournoy held the Daisies to one hit until the seventh and final frame when they jolted him for four hits and three runs. Until then the only hit was a home run by Dihigo in the second inning. Stevens was the only Darbyite to get on, excepting Dihigo, until the seventh, and this was in the sixth when Flournoy erred on his bunt.

At the crack of Dihigo's bat in the second, Dixon in left, turned his back to the stands, for he knew by the sound, the ball had been labelled "HR" by the Cuban heavy man.

When the fans began to leave after the Sox had rung up their half of the seventh with the score standing 7-1, the Daisies broke out in a rash of base hits. With two men down, Dihigo singled, Mackey walked, Manager Cockrell went in to bat for Jackson and singled, scoring Dihigo; Cooper batting for Stevens, singled to score Mackey and Dallard batting for Pritchett, singled. But the rally fell short when Cooper was out on a fielder's choice of Holloway's rap.

To prove to fans he cared naught for the thirteen jinx, nor that his thirteen hits out of thirteen tries were neither accidents nor luck, Dixon hunted down third base line and ran it out for his fourteenth safety.

First Game											
BLACK SOX						HILLDALE					
	ab	r	h	e	e		ab	r	h	e	e
Burbage rf	3	3	2	0	0	Holloway rf	5	1	3	3	0
Warfield 2b	4	1	1	3	0	Warmack lf	5	0	2	2	0
Wilson lb	4	2	1	1	0	Johnson 3b	5	0	0	2	1
Dixon lf	5	1	5	1	0	O'Ch't'n cf	3	1	0	2	0
Lundy ss	3	1	1	0	0	Dihigo lb	4	1	2	0	0
Wash't'n cf	4	0	1	3	0	Mackey c	4	0	1	5	0
Marcell 3b	4	2	1	3	0	Jackson 2b	4	0	2	2	0
Clark c	5	1	2	4	0	Stevens ss	3	1	0	1	0
Yokely p	3	0	1	0	0	Cockrell p	1	0	0	0	0
						Cooper p	3	0	1	0	0
Totals	37	11	15	27	0	Totals	37	4	11	24	1

Score by innings:

Hilldale ... 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 3-4
Black Sox ... 0 1 2 2 1 0 5 0 x-11

Two base hits—Clark, Holloway. Three base hits—Burbage, Warfield, Mackey. Sacrifice—Lundy, Yokely, Johnson. Home run—Dixon. Base on balls—Off Yokely (2); off Cockrell, 3; off Cooper, 4. Stolen bases—Burbage, Lundy (2). Struck out—By Yokely, 4; by Cooper, 2; by Cockrell, 1. Double plays—Marcel to Warfield to Wilson; Stevens to Jackson to Dihigo. Left on bases—

By Sox, 10; by Hilldale, 2. Umpires—Vance and O'Neil.

Second Game											
BLACK SOX						HILLDALE					
	ab	r	h	e	e		ab	r	h	e	e
Burbage rf	3	1	1	0	0	Holloway rf	4	0	0	2	1
Warfield 2b	4	2	1	2	0	Warmack lf	3	0	0	0	0
Wilson lb	3	1	1	0	0	Johnson 3b	3	0	0	2	0
Dixon lf	3	1	3	1	0	Chas ton cf	3	0	0	0	0
Lundy ss	3	0	1	0	0	Dihigo lb	3	2	2	1	0
Wash't'n cf	1	0	0	2	0	Mackey c	3	1	0	2	2
Marcell 3b	3	1	3	1	0	Jackson 2b	2	0	0	2	0
Latimer ss	3	1	0	0	0	Stevens ss	2	0	0	1	2
Flournoy p	3	0	0	0	0	Pritchett p	2	0	0	0	0
						Cockrell	1	1	0	0	0
						Cooper	1	0	1	0	0
						Dallard	1	0	1	0	0

Totals 26 7 9 21 11 Totals 25 4 5 15 5

1 Batted for Jackson in seventh.

2 Batted for Stevens in seventh.

3 Batted for Pritchett in seventh.

Score by innings:

Hilldale ... 0 1 0 0 0 0 3-4

Black Sox ... 1 0 4 0 0 2 x-7

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1922	Harrisburg	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
1923	Harrisburg	2	7	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	.429	.429
1924	Harrisburg	52	187	25	49	4	3	4	26	6	.262	.380
1925	Harrisburg	72	282	78	97	12	4	8	50	16	.344	.500
1926	Harrisburg	59	230	57	80	16	6	7	53	12	.348	.561
1927	Harrisburg	14	50	9	13	2	1	0	3	1	.260	.340
1928	Baltimore	69	259	58	100	16	8	13	58	21	.386	.660
1929	Baltimore	-	241	66	104	21	8	16	-	25	.432	.784
1930	Baltimore	53	174	39	48	13	6	8	30	7	.276	.557
	Chicago											
1931	Hilldale	50	186	41	50	4	5	1	16	3	.269	.360
1932	Pittsburgh	43	164	35	52	15	2	3	11	9	.317	.488
1933	Philadelphia	24	92	25	34	4	0	0	14	1	.370	.413
1934	Baltimore	10	33	4	4	0	0	0	1	1	.121	.121
	Pittsburgh											
1935	Brooklyn	10	42	8	13	3	0	1	2	4	.310	.452
1936	Homestead	23	88	20	26	4	3	3	15	2	.295	.511
	Newark											
1937	Pittsburgh	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
	Total	484	2039	467	673	114	46	64	279	108	.330	.525

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

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1923	Harrisburg	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	-	-	.333	.333
1924	Harrisburg	1	4	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	.500	.500
1925	Harrisburg	4	15	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	.400	.400
1926	Harrisburg	1	4	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	.250	.500
1928	Baltimore	12	51	12	18	4	1	1	-	-	.353	.529
1929	Baltimore	5	17	4	10	2	-	2	-	1	.588	1.059
1930	Baltimore	10	36	10	15	3	-	1	-	3	.417	.583
1931	Hilldale	6	22	6	7	-	-	1	-	-	.318	.455
1933	Philadelphia	2	8	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	.625	.625
1935	Brooklyn	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	.500	.500
1936	Homestead	3	12	3	5	1	1	-	-	-	.417	.667
	Total	46	176	45	72	11	2	5	-	4	.409	.580

Career Statistics – Hitting (East-West All Star Games)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1933	East	1	4	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	.250	.250
1934	East	1	2	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	.500	.500
	Total	2	6	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	.333	.333

Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Games vs Major League All Star Teams)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1928	Baltimore	4	16	5	8	2	0	3	-	5	.500	1.188
1929	Baltimore	8	27	9	11	4	1	-	-	2	.407	.630
1930	Chicago	2	7	1	4	-	1	-	-	1	.333	1.000
1931	Hilldale	3	12	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-
1931	Baltimore	4	15	6	5	2	1	-	-	1	.333	.600
1935	Pittsburgh	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-
1935	Colored Stars	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-
	Total	23	83	24	34	8	3	3	-	9	.410	.687

BASEBALL
 Wednesday, May 6th
 6:15 P. M.
Lincoln Giants
 VS.
Harrisburg Giants
 (LEAGUE GAME)
 Smedley Park, 7th & Lloyd Sts.

Harrisburg Giants
 VS
 Lincoln Giants
 05-06-25

Barnstorming in the East

BASEBALL
 MONDAY, AUGUST 10
 Having Returned From a Successful Western Trip
THE FAMOUS
BLACK YANKEES
 Representing Middletown Grays
 WILL PLAY
The HOMESTEAD GRAYS
 OF PITTSBURGH, PA.
 Members of Negro National League, In a Regular League Game
 Game Called at 6:30 P. M.
 STATE HOSPITAL GROUNDS
 Middletown, N. Y.
 Keep on Lookout For Further Big Attractions Every Monday Night.

Homestead Grays
 VS
 New York Black Yankees
 08-10-36

POTTSVILLE GIANTS
BEAT CUBANS
 POTTSVILLE, Pa.—The Pottsville Giants defeated the Philadelphia Cuban Stars here Sunday 6 to 3. The game was featured by the hitting of "Gooses" Poles, former Baltimore boy, Scott and Smith, the latter two, getting homers.
 For games with the Giants write J. H. Johnson, 649 Brood Street, Harrisburg, Pa.
 Results of last week's contest: Gts. 10; Patton 2; Gts. 4; Panxsutown 3; Gts. 9; Cressona 3; Gts. 6; Pottstown 2.

POTTSVILLE GTS.	PHILA. CUBAN STARS
Poles, 3b 4 0 2 3 3	Arp, ss 4 0 1 4 3
Carp, 1st 3b 4 1 2 2 3	Price, 3b 4 0 0 3 1
Dias, 1b 4 2 2 10 9	C. Arp, 1b 4 1 1 9 0
Smith, 1b 4 1 0 2 0	Fletcher, c 3 1 0 2 0
Goodman, cf 3 0 1 2 0	Curtis, cf 3 0 0 1 0
Banks, 3b 3 0 0 0 1	R. Dixon, cf 3 0 0 0 0
Henry, rf 3 2 2 0 0	Woods, 2b 2 1 1 2 4
Scott, c 3 0 1 4 2	Silver, rf 3 0 0 0 0
Pottsville Gts. 201 616 114-4	
Phila. Cuban Stars 109 100 418-3	

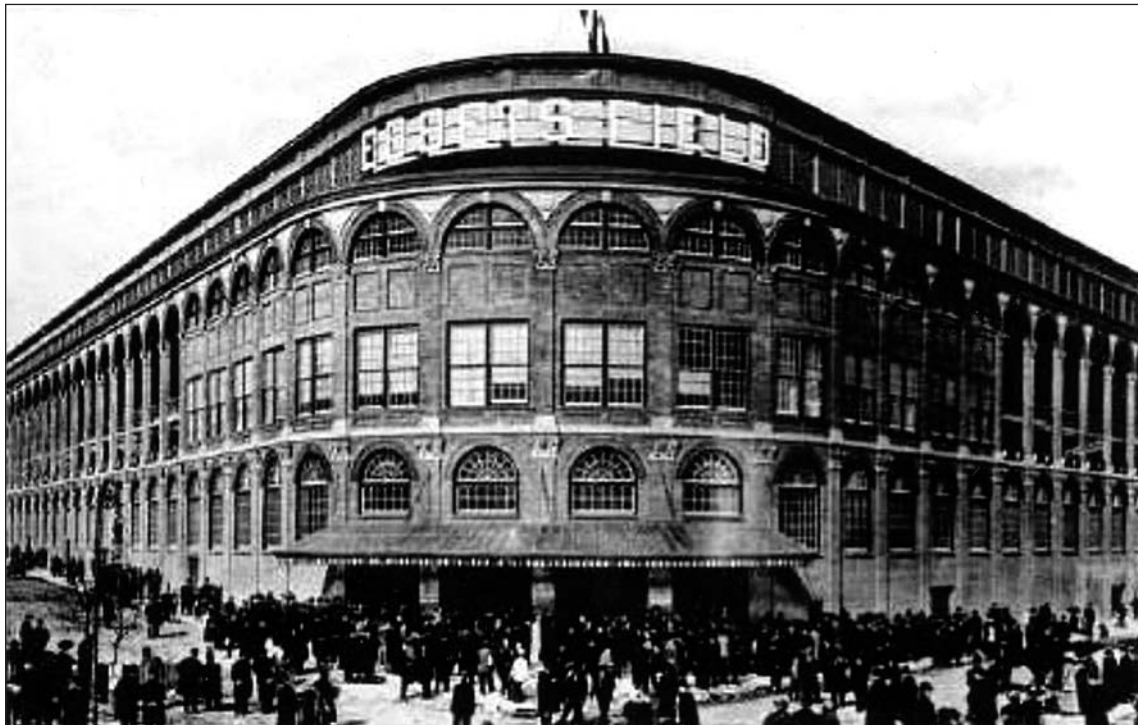
Philadelphia Cuban Stars
 VS
 Pottsville Giants
 06-25-27

GAME STARTS PROMPTLY
 AT 8:15
 At The
Clearfield Driving Park

Night Baseball
Wednesday, May 27
Homestead Grays vs. Clearfield C-C

MUSIC FURNISHED BY
 THE
 CLEARFIELD CITIZENS BAND
 ADMISSION (Including Tax) 50c

Homestead Grays vs Clearfield
 05-27-36



Ebbets Field (New York City)
 Home of the Brooklyn Eagles

Career Statistics – Hitting (California Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1925-26	Philadelphia	41	140	-	38	8	2	4	-	-	.271	.443
1926-27	Philadelphia	35	109	-	38	9	1	0	-	-	.349	.450
1927-28	Philadelphia	20	79	-	30	6	3	5	-	-	.380	.722
1928-29	Cleveland	28	100	-	36	7	1	7	-	-	.360	.660
1930-31	Philadelphia	15	51	-	14	3	0	2	-	-	.275	.451
	Total	139	479	-	156	33	7	18	-	-	.326	.537

Career Statistics – Hitting (Cuban Winter League)

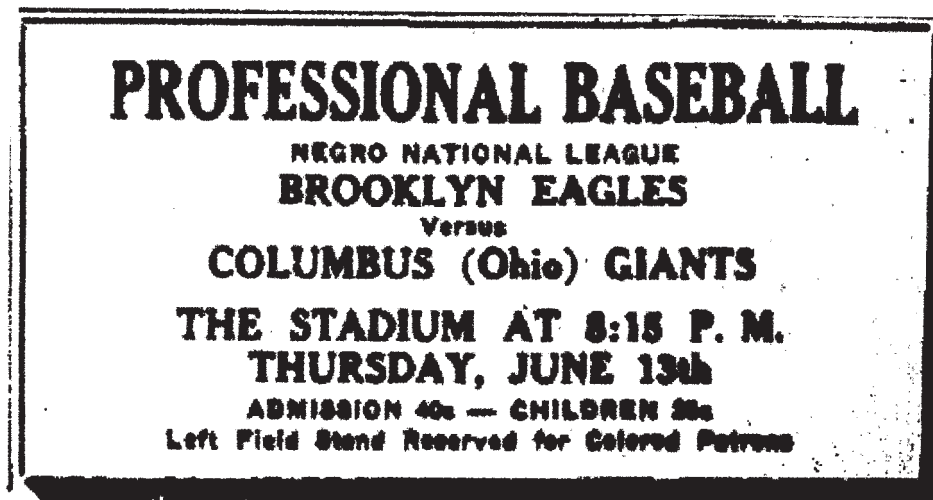
Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1929-30	Almendares	-	175	36	46	10	6	5	-	-	.263	.474

Career Statistics – Hitting (Venezuela)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1934	Concordia	-	21	5	8	1	0	1	-	-	.381	.571

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Negro League	484	2039	467	673	114	46	64	279	108	.330	.525
Non League Games	46	176	45	72	11	2	5	-	4	.409	.580
East-West All Star Games	2	6	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	.333	.333
Exhibition Games	23	83	24	34	8	3	3	-	9	.410	.687
California	139	479	-	156	33	7	18	-	-	.326	.537
Cuba	-	175	36	46	10	6	5	-	-	.263	.474
Venezuela	-	21	5	8	1	0	1	-	-	.381	.571
Total	694	2979	579	991	177	64	96	279	121	.333	.530



Brooklyn Eagles vs Columbus Giants

The Daily Mail

Hagerstown, Maryland

06-12-35

Championship Teams

Rap Dixon was a member of the following championship teams during his playing career.

Year	Team	League	Record	
1924	Harrisburg Giants	Harrisburg City Championship	-	-
1925-26	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League	24-15-3	.615
1926	Harrisburg Giants	Harrisburg City Championship	-	-
1926-27	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League	26-11-1	.703
1927-28	Philadelphia Royal Giants	California Winter League	19-11-2	.633
1928-29	Cleveland Royal Giants	California Winter League	30-13-2	.698
1929	Baltimore Black Sox	American Negro League	49-21	.700
1930-31	Philadelphia Giants	California Winter League	28-2-1	.933
1934	Pittsburg Crawfords	Negro National League	64-22	.744
1934	Concordia	Copa Trujillo Cup	6-3	.667

Batting and League Leader Hitting Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Slugging Percentage	1927-28	California Winter League	.772
Hits	1927-28	California Winter League	30
Doubles	1927-28	California Winter League	6
Triples	1927-28	California Winter League	3
Stolen Bases	1929-30	Cuban Winter League	19



Concordia (Venezuela)

Martin Dihigo (back row – third from left) and **Josh Gibson** (back row – second from right)

Herbert “Rap” Dixon (middle row – seated)

Selected Career Highlights

- Dixon had a career batting average of .330 with a .525 slugging percentage during his career in Negro “league” games and games against top levels of competition.
- Dixon had a career batting average of .333 with a .530 slugging percentage in games against all levels of competition.
- Rap played in at least 23 games against Major and Minor League all star teams. In these 23 games for which we have found box scores, he had 34 hits in 83 at bats for a .410 batting average and a .687 slugging percentage.
- Playing with Oscar Charleston and Clarence “Fats” Jenkins for the Harrisburg Giants from 1924 to 1927, they formed one of the greatest outfields in Negro League history.
- Selected to the Pittsburgh Courier “All East All Star” team in 1925 and 1929.
- Named to Cum Posey’s All Star team in 1925, 1929, 1933 and 1935
- Selected to the Afro American Negro League All Star team in 1926 and 1929.
- Member of five (5) California Winter League championship teams (1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1930-31)
- Awarded a trophy cup by Emperor Hirohito of Japan for his historic homerun and overall play during the Philadelphia Royal Giants tour of that country in 1927.
- Led the California Winter League with a .772 slugging percentage for the 1927-28 season. Also led the league in hits, doubles and triples.
- Rap had a “monster” year in 1928 for the Baltimore Black Sox when he hit .388 with a .660 slugging percentage. In the 69 “league” games in which he played, Dixon also hit 13 homeruns and had 58 runs batted in.
- Dixon followed up his hallmark 1928 season with even bigger numbers the next year by batting .432 with a .784 slugging percentage for the Black Sox in 1929.
- Set a professional baseball record in 1929 when he collected 14 straight hits. The record still stands today.
- Member of 1929 Baltimore Black Sox team that won the American Negro League title.
- In 1930 Rap became the first Negro League player to hit a home run in Yankee Stadium. Dixon hit three homeruns in the doubleheader that was played that day.
- Selected to the East-West All Star game in 1933 and 1934. The 1933 East-West All Star game was the first ever played in the game’s history. Dixon has the distinction of stealing the first base and scoring the first run of the classic.
- Member of the 1934 Concordia championship team that won the Copa Trujillo cup.
- Played on the Pittsburgh Crawfords team that won Negro National League title in 1934.
- Signed National Baseball Hall of Famer Leon Day to his first contract (1934) and was Day’s first manager in the Negro Leagues.
- Selected to the Pittsburgh Courier All Time (Negro League) All Star team in 1952.
- Selected to the Capital Area Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

Harrisburg Giants

The Harrisburg Giants were owned by Colonel William Strothers and played in the Eastern Colored League (ECL). Harrisburg had the second best composite record in the history of the league. The team was led by the hitting of Oscar Charleston, Herbert “Rap” Dixon and Clarence “Fats” Jenkins. Together the trio of Charleston, Dixon and Jenkins also formed one of the best outfields in the history of Negro League baseball.



Harrisburg Giants
Eastern Colored League

(left to right - Back row – unknown, **Herbert “Rap” Dixon**, Colonel William Strothers (owner), unknown, unknown, unknown and **Oscar Charleston**. Middle row – Kenneth “Ping” Gardner, **Edgar Wesley**, unknown, unknown and unknown. Front row – Daltie Cooper, **Clarence “Fats” Jenkins**, unknown and unknown.)