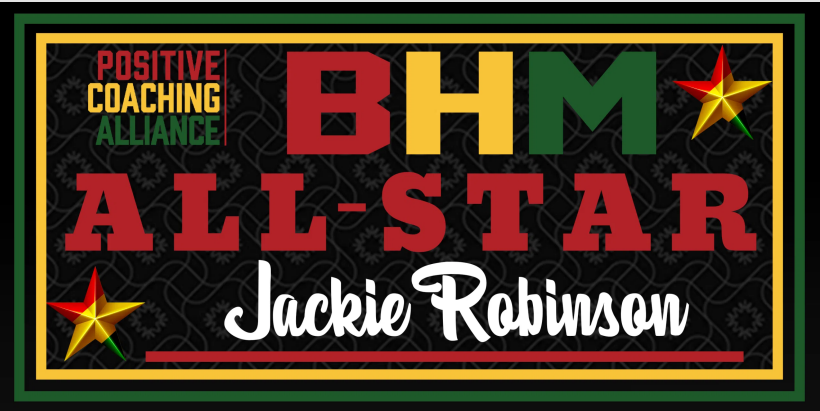




Black History Month All-Star: Jackie Robinson



Telling the story of Jackie Robinson is like telling the story of several different men. Just explaining one segment of his life tells a story of a historical figure, let alone the multiple impacts Robinson has had on sports, civil rights and military background. Robinson did so many things that made you believe several different people did this.

Born in Cairo, Georgia, in 1919, his family moved to Pasadena, California, in 1929. As part of the Great Migration was when African Americans moved from highly segregated southern states to seek better conditions. In 1935 attending John Muir High School, Robinson was a varsity star who lettered in four sports,

baseball, basketball, football and track and field. The Pasadena Star-News recognized him for being outstanding in those sports for two years.

After high school, he would attend Pasadena Junior College playing those same four sports. He had a .417 batting average in baseball, scoring 43 runs in just 24 games in 1938.

USC vs UCLA 1939 - Jackie Robinson #28

He would then attend UCLA, where he remained impactful in all four sports. Ironically, the sport he struggled in was baseball, but he remained in the starting line-up due to his stellar defense. Robinson was phenomenal on the football field for his two years. He led the nation in punt return average and 1940 led the Bruins in passing with 444 yards and 383 yards rushing. The 1939 team had four African American players, making them the most integrated major college football team. The team went undefeated with six wins and four ties and finished seventh in the AP poll while Robinson earned All-Pac-10 honors.

On the basketball floor, the 5-foot-11 Robinson was a force to be reckoned with in 1940, averaging 12.4 points and 11.9 points in 1941. Robinson also won the Pacific Coast Conference and NCAA titles in the long jump leaping 25 feet and 24 feet 10 inches in track and field.

After college in April 1942, he was drafted into the US Army and served with a segregated cavalry unit at Fort Riley, Kansas. His college education allowed him to apply for Officers' Candidate School. Due to Joe Louis and his friend Truman K. Gibson Jr.'s intervention Robinson was enrolled in OCS at Fort Riley and several other black soldiers. Robinson was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army in 1943.

After his military commitments, Robinson in 1945, Robinson agreed to play baseball in the Negro Leagues for the Kansas City Monarchs. He played 47 games at shortstop, hitting .387, five home runs and 13 stolen bases. However, Robinson wanted to end the colored barrier and be the first African American since Moses Fleetwood Walker to play in the major leagues. After trying out for other franchises, he was offered a deal to play in the Brooklyn Dodgers organization in 1945. Branch Rickey Jr., son of Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Ricky Sr.

to play with minor league affiant the Montreal Royals. Rickey informed Robinson that taunts would be inevitable, and he wanted a player with guts not to fight back. The contract had stipulations no other player had ever had. It was written that Robinson wouldn’t complain even if someone spat on him. Robinson had to show restraint throughout his career. Robinson had to endure racial epithets daily from fans, media, and the field.

Classic Jackie Robinson Footage



Robinson’s first game was on April 15th, 1947. He started at first base vs. Boston Braves, reached on an error and scored a run. He batted .297, finish 5th in the MVP race and won Rookie of the Year. In 1949 National League MVP and was selected for the All-Star team. He hit .342, with stolen 37 bases, 124 RBIs, 203 hits and 122 runs scored. In 1953 showed his versatility playing five different positions. In his career, he scored 972 runs and had over 100 runs six seasons, barely missing making it seven in a row due to having 99 in 1950. He had a great eye at the plate, walked 756, stuck out 291 and had 30 plus doubles six seasons. Robinson would steal 200 bases his career and still holds the record for an astounding 19 times stealing home.

The long influence of Jackie Robinson, on and off t...



Robinson was very active in the Civil Rights Movement. He spent a lot of time raising money for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. When Robinson retired from baseball, he was excited to participate in the Civil Rights Movement. He helped raise \$1 million for the NAACP in his first year. He would host fundraising events for the SCLC in his backyard for jailed activists. His family participated in Civil Rights marches and was on the front line on the famous “March on Washington” in 1963.

Jackie Robinson Addresses Civil Rights Mass Meet...



Sadly, the toll of his baseball career and losing his son at an early age would affect Robinson. Suffering from heart disease and diabetes Robinson was nearly blind. On Oct 24th, 1972, Robinson passed away from a heart attack at his home in North Stamford, Connecticut, he was only 53 years old.

Now major League Baseball celebrates Robinson with Jack Robinson Day. Every player on every team wears Robinson’s #42. The league also retired his number and the last player to wear the number was Yankees Closer Mariano Rivera, who retired in 2013.

[Click here](#) to listen to the complete All-Star list.

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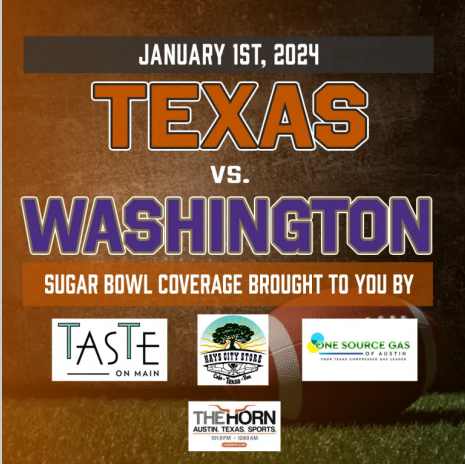
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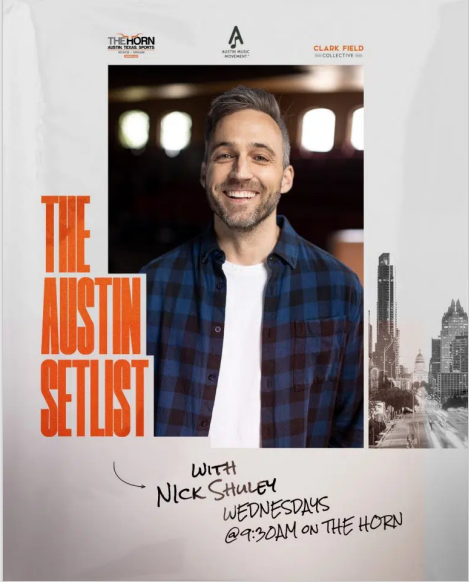
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