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SPORTS THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, APRIL 31, 1942

Dodgers Purchase Robinson, First Negro in Modern Major League Baseball

THE DODGERS ACQUIRE A NEW INFELDER



Jackie Robinson, Negro, and Branch Rickey, manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, are seen in a photograph. Robinson is wearing a Dodgers uniform and is looking towards Rickey, who is in a suit and tie. They appear to be in a room, possibly a clubhouse or office, with a window in the background.

ROYALS STAR SIGNS WITH BROOKS TODAY

International League Betting Chances: Will Bid for Job in Big League Today

MONTREAL TRIPS DODGERS

Lord and Company Hit 5 Run Home Against Braves in Fourth for 4-3 Triumph

IN LITTLE SPREAD

The Dodgers, 30, and the Braves, 29, were tied in the National League standings after the first two games of the season. The Dodgers had a record of 15-15, while the Braves had a record of 14-15.

Red Sox Shut Out by Reds, 5-0, As Blackwell Scatters 7 Blows

Cincinnati Scores Four Runs in Sixth on Homers by Adams, Lamano—Phila Top Senators—Other Baseball News

GIANTS OVERPOWER INDIANS, 11-4, WITH SWIFT ATTACK AGAINST FELLER

Cleveland Ace Yields 5 Runs in 2 Innings—Moss Hits 2 Homers and Sid Gordon Over—Farnsworth and Andrews Pitch Well

MANHATTAN TIES N. Y. U. LEAD AT 4-4

James Drew Team With 7 Runs in Eighth in Stunning Conference Contest

THE DAY'S NEWS

The New York Times today has led the way in the race to the top of the front page with its headline about the signing of Jackie Robinson by the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Baseball news was the main feature of the day's sports section, with the Dodgers' acquisition of Robinson being the most significant story.

Other headlines included the Red Sox's shutout by the Cincinnati Reds, the Giants' victory over the Cleveland Indians, and the Philadelphia Phillies' win against the Washington Senators.

The sports section also featured news about the Montreal Canadiens' trip to the Dodgers, the performance of Branch Rickey, and the progress of the National League season.

The front page of the New York Times on Friday, April 31, 1942, is a dense page of text and images. The main headline is "Dodgers Purchase Robinson, First Negro in Modern Major League Baseball". Below this is a large photograph of Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey. To the right of the photo is a sub-headline "THE DODGERS ACQUIRE A NEW INFELDER". The page is filled with various news items, including "ROYALS STAR SIGNS WITH BROOKS TODAY", "Red Sox Shut Out by Reds, 5-0, As Blackwell Scatters 7 Blows", "GIANTS OVERPOWER INDIANS, 11-4, WITH SWIFT ATTACK AGAINST FELLER", and "MANHATTAN TIES N. Y. U. LEAD AT 4-4". There are also several smaller headlines and columns of text throughout the page.

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Dodgers Purchase Robinson, First Negro in Modern Major League Baseball

By LOUIS EFFRAT



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Jackie Robinson, 28-year-old infielder, yesterday became the first Negro to achieve major-league baseball status in modern times. His contract was purchased from the Montreal Royals of the International League by the Dodgers and he will be in Brooklyn uniform at Ebbets Field today, when the Brooks oppose the Yankees in the first of three exhibition games over the week-end.

A native of Georgia, Robinson won fame in baseball, football, basketball and track at the University of California at Los Angeles before entering the armed service as a private. He emerged a lieutenant in 1945 and in October of that year was signed to a Montreal contract. Robinson's performances in the International League, which he led in batting last season with an average of .349, prompted President Branch Rickey of the Dodgers to promote Jackie.

The decision was made while Robinson was playing first base for Montreal against the Dodgers at Ebbets Field. Jackie was blanked at the plate and contributed little to his team's 4-3 victory before 14,282 fans, but it was nevertheless a history-making day for the well-proportioned lad.

An Inopportune Moment

Jackie had just popped into a double-play, attempting to bunt in the fifth inning, when Arthur Mann, assistant to Rickey, appeared in the press box. He handed out a brief, typed announcement: "The Brooklyn Dodgers today purchased the contract of Jackie Roosevelt Robinson from the Montreal Royals."

Robinson will appear at the Brooklyn offices this morning to sign a contract. Rickey does not anticipated any difficulty over terms.

According to the records, the last Negro to play in the majors was one Moses Fleetwood Walker, who caught for Toledo of the American Association when that circuit enjoyed major-league classification back in 1884.

The call for Robinson was no surprise. Most baseball persons had been expecting it. After all, he had proved his right o the opportunity by his extraordinary work in the AAA minor league, where he stole 40 bases and

was the best defensive second baseman. He sparked the Royals to the pennant and the team went on to annex the little world series.

Robinson's path in the immediate future may not be too smooth, however. He may run into antipathy from Southerners who form about 60 per cent of the league's playing strength. In fact, it is rumored that a number of Dodgers expressed themselves unhappy at the possibility of having to play with Jackie.

Robinson is "Thrilled"

Jackie, himself, expects not trouble. He said he was "thrilled and it's what I've been waiting for." When his Montreal mates congratulated and wished him luck, Robinson answered: "Thanks, I need it."

Whether Robinson will be used at first or second base is not known. That will depend upon the new manager, yet to be named by Rickey.

Rickey, in answer to a query, declared he did not expect trouble from other players, because of Robinson. "We are all agreed," he said, "that Jackie is ready for the chance."

Several thousand Negroes were in the stands at yesterday's exhibition. When Robinson appeared for batting practice, he drew a warm and pleasant reception. Dixie Walker, quoted in 1945 as opposes to playing with, Jackie, was booed on his first turn at bat. Walker answered with a resounding single. If, however, Robinson, is to make the grade, he will have to do better than he did against the Brooks. Against Ralph Branca, Jackie rolled meekly to the mound, walked and then popped an intended sacrifice bunt into a double play. At first base-a new position for him-he handled himself flawlessly, but did not have a difficult chance.

Six Hits for Each Club

The biggest crowd to watch the Dodgers this spring saw the Brooks under Clyde Sukeforth (he's the pro tem manager, Rickey said) go down to defeat before the sound pitching of Ervin Palica and Jack Banta, who combined for a six-hit effort. The Royals collected the same number of safeties against Branca, Hank Behrman and Lefty Paul Minner, but two were round-trippers.

The homers both in the fourth inning at the expense of Branca, accounted for all the Montreal runs. After Robinson had walked and Jack Jorgensen had flied out, Don Lund blasted a liner into the lower left-field stand. Then a pass to Earl Naylor and a longer four-bagger to left center by Al Campanis made it 4-0.

The Dodgers retrieved two runs in the same stanza. Walker walked and Duke Snider doubled to center. Walker tallied and when Lou Welaj, Montreal shortstop, threw wild on the relay, Snider went all the way around. A walk to Stan Rojek and Gene Hermanski's double netted the last Brooklyn run in the seventh.

While Lund's and Campanis' round-trippers were well tagged, both would have been caught last year. The walls are fourteen feet closer to home plate this season.

"I'm for Robinson" buttons were sold outside the park.