

8th Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference
June 16-19, 2005
Holiday Inn, Willowbrook
Willowbrook, Illinois

Press Release

The Negro Leagues Committee for the Society for American Baseball Research is pleased to be hosting the 8th Annual Jerry Malloy Conference in Chicago in June 2005. There is an exciting array of activities planned and opportunities for the public to come and learn about the history of the Negro Leagues.

There will be two player panels with Chicago area Negro Leaguers taking part in telling their stories. In addition, a variety of research presentations and exhibits will be offered by such renowned researchers as Larry Lester, author of six books on the Negro Leagues including the award winning *Black Baseball's National Showcase: The East-West All Star Game, 1933-53*. Lester has also contributed to over seventy other baseball publications and was one of the original founders of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. Lester will be participating in a discussion about teaching the Negro Leagues and has an exhibit on the East-West game. Other presenters include Tim Rives, archivist for the National Archives—Central Plains Region. Rives will be presenting on prison baseball and its ties to the Negro Leagues. He previously published “The Booker T Four’s Unlikely Journey from Prison Baseball to the Negro Leagues” in 2004 and has presented on such other topics as “The Buffalo Soldier, The Red Scare and the Negro National League” and “The Klansman Who Owned Jackie Robinson.” Artist Elise Dodeles will be exhibiting some of her recent paintings on the Negro Leagues. Currently her work is being exhibited as part of the New Jersey Artist Series at the Johnson and Johnson World Headquarters Gallery. The exhibit is entitled “Figuring Sport: Recent Paintings.”

The conference will also include a visit to local cemeteries where a number of Negro Leaguers are buried including Andrew “Rube” Foster and Jimmie Crutchfield. For those wishing to test their knowledge or just listen to others there will be a Negro League Trivia Contest with prizes. The group will be attending the Friday night baseball game between the White Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers where there will be a tribute to the Negro Leaguers before the game.

For more details, to register for the conference or find out how else you can participate please contact local conference planner Eddie Bedford. Bedford is a professor from Eastern Michigan University who teaches a class on the History of the Negro Leagues and regularly makes presentations on the topic. He can be reached at ebedford@emich.edu or 630-355-9535.