

10th Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference
June 14-17, 2007
Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum
Portsmouth, Virginia

The Society of American Baseball Research's Negro League Committee and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum invite you to load your bats and gloves onto your team buses and into your motorcars and make plans for attending the *10th Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference*, which is to be held in Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia, next June 15-17, 2007.

Join other Negro League researchers and historians, as we honor the great independent and Negro League teams and players who barnstormed across this great nation. The Hampton Roads areas of Virginia and the cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk were frequent venues on the schedules of many of these teams. Portsmouth and Norfolk's African-American community, and baseball fans were representative of the many communities, towns, and cities across this nation who would fill their local ball parks and stadiums to catch a glimpse of the great barnstorming and Negro League teams who brought an exciting brand of baseball to their area.

This will mark the first time that the Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference has been held in a city that was not home of a major Negro League team. The Portsmouth and Norfolk area has a long and colorful Negro League history in that it was a regular stop for many teams. Each year, teams such as the area's own Norfolk Stars and Norfolk Giants, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Hilldale, Homestead Grays, Newark Eagles, New York Cubans, New York Black Yankees, Philadelphia Stars, Kansas City Monarchs, and Indianapolis Clowns would schedule both league and barnstorming games in the area. Over the years baseball fans were treated to the prowess of Negro League players, including future National Baseball Hall of Fame members, Ben Taylor, Smoky Joe Williams, Satchel Paige, Judy Johnson, Ray Dandridge, Oscar Charleston, Larry Doby, Leon Day, Monte Irvin, Willie Wells, Mule Suttles, Josh Gibson, and Buck Leonard.

Very few cities in America have a state of the art venue as beautiful as the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum located in Portsmouth, which will play host to the conference. A member of the International Association of Sports Museums and Halls of Fame, it is one of only 16 official state sports halls of fame in the country. There are forty-six National Hall of Famers among its ranks, including Negro League greats Leon Day and Ray Dandridge.

The Hawthorn Hotel and Suites at the Governor Dinwiddie, with its prime location in the heart of Portsmouth's Olde Towne business district, has been selected as the conference hotel. The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame is just a short walk from the hotel past many wonderful restaurants and shops. Participants will enjoy all the outstanding events you have come to associate with past conferences. These will include an educational roundtable, stimulating research presentations, a trivia contest, an awards banquet, a few new surprises, and a ball game. Next years game will entail a scenic ferry ride to Norfolk across the historic Elizabeth River, a river once explored by Captain John Smith nearly 400 years earlier. Participants will board a pedestrian ferry and ride right to the entrance of Harbor Park, the home of the Norfolk Tides, the Baltimore Orioles Triple-A International League franchise.

So make plans to join us in the quaint, historic seaport city of Portsmouth, Virginia, for the *10th Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference*.