



Museum of African American History

FOR RELEASE: May 10, 2012

- EXHIBIT:** "The Color of Baseball in Boston"
- INTRODUCTION:** During this 100th Anniversary of Fenway Park, the **Museum of African American History**, Boston and Nantucket, commemorates the history of baseball with a special exhibit, "**The Color of Baseball in Boston: The History of Black Teams, the Players, and a Sporting Community.**"
- WHEN & WHERE:** **Now through October 31, 2012**
Museum of African American History
Boston Campus: 46 Joy Street on Beacon Hill
- PUBLIC EVENT:** **Saturday, May 19, 12:30 – 3:30 pm: Memories and Memorabilia Day**
Baseball collectors, enthusiasts, fans, and families will enjoy this fun day at the Museum. The audience is invited to tour the exhibit (10am - 4pm) and the newly restored African Meeting House (guided tours hourly, 11am - 3pm), bring their keepsakes for show and tell, and share memories of baseball teams and players. Young visitors can participate in the Baseball Scavenger Hunt and search the exhibit for clues to win a prize. Gallery talks will include:
- **Bijan C. Bayne on Black Baseball in Boston before 1900** — The sports journalist, author of *Sky Kings: Black Pioneers of Professional Basketball*, and contributing writer for "The Color of Baseball in Boston" will tell stories of several players from the late 1800s, including Luther Askin and Frank Grant.
 - **Dr. Robert L. Cvornyek on The Boston Tigers** — Chair of the Rhode Island College History Department, author of *Baseball in Newark*, editor of *Negro Baseball... Before Integration* by Effa Manley and Leon Herbert Hardwick, and principal scholar for "The Color of Baseball in Boston will recall the history of the team dubbed the "Champion Colored Nine of New England."
 - **Mike Ginns on Will "Cannonball" Jackman** — Founder and director of the Cannonball Foundation talks about the "Best Ballplayer You Have Never Heard Of."
- ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:** "The Color of Baseball in Boston," tells little-known stories about players of color and teams who distinguished themselves from the 1800s through the mid 1900s. The exhibit celebrates Boston's long and proud tradition of amateur and semi-professional blackball. In the years following the American Civil War, baseball grew in popularity in Boston and around the nation. During the 19th and early 20th century, blacks and whites played baseball together on the same teams, while there also were teams comprised solely of men of color.
- EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS:** Among the treasures featured in the exhibit are **Will "Cannonball" Jackman's** uniform, recently conserved; newspaper articles and cartoons; a base signed by Red Sox players for Jackie Robinson Day 2006; baseball cards and antique baseball equipment; as well as rare images of players and teams, including Ernest Withers' photographs of the Negro League Memphis Red Sox.
- ABOUT CANNONBALL:** When Will "Cannonball" Jackman rose to prominence in the 1920s, major league teams were banned from contracting with players of color, but Boston baseball fans

regarded him as the region's greatest pitcher and top attraction. Pitching for more than 30 years for teams like the Boston Monarchs, Boston's Philadelphia Giants, and the Boston Colored Giants, Jackman recalls pitching more than 1,200 games and played his last game at the age of 56. On July 14, 1971, dignitaries, including Mayor Kevin White and former Boston Celtics' star "Satch" Sanders, joined fans and friends for the City of Boston's tribute to Cannonball. He played a celebratory game at Carter Field in the South End.

ABOUT MAAH:

The **Museum of African American History** is New England's largest museum dedicated to preserving, conserving and accurately interpreting the contributions of people of African descent, and those with whom they found common cause in the struggle for liberty, dignity, and justice for all. Founded in 1967, its Boston and Nantucket campuses feature four historic sites — three are National Historic Landmarks — and two Black Heritage Trails®.

These historic structures embody the stories of organized black communities from the Colonial Period through the 19th century. Exhibits, programs, and educational activities showcase the powerful history of individuals and families who worshipped, educated their children, debated the issues of the day, organized politically and socially through sports and other pastimes, and advanced the cause of freedom through a strategic network of Northern coastal communities.

The African Meeting House, the crown jewel of the Museum's historic sites built in 1806 by free black craftsmen, reopened December 2011 after a \$9.5 million dollar historic restoration. The beauty and simple elegance of this treasured space and important period elements, from pews and pulpit, to golden chandelier and sconces, to original floors and wainscoting, create a setting that allows visitors to imagine the worship, lectures, school, concerts, and antislavery meetings that occurred here.

HOURS & ADMISSION:

The Museum is open year-round in **Boston**, Monday – Saturdays from 10am – 4pm; and in **Nantucket**, from June to October weekdays from 11am – 3pm, Saturdays 11am – 1pm, and Sundays 1 – 3pm. The Museum's historic sites are accessible for all. Admission is free to Museum members and children 12 years and under, \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth (13 - 17) and seniors (62+).

MAAH MEMBERSHIP:

\$15 Eunice Ross Student/Senior; \$25 Lewis Hayden Individual; \$50 Susan Paul Family; \$125 National Trust Friend. Additional membership opportunities are available with increasing rewards at each level. Benefits for all members include free admission to Boston and Nantucket campuses.

EXHIBIT PHOTOS:

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST: 18th and 19th century baseball equipment, historic photos of "colored" players and teams, and other items featured in the exhibit.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Visit www.maah.org or call [617.725.0022, ext. 222](tel:617.725.0022) to find out more about Museum exhibits, historic sites, and Black Heritage Trail® tours.

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