

# PITTSBURGH PIRATES BECOME FIRST TEAM IN MAJOR LEAGUES TO RECOGNIZE HISTORY OF NEGRO LEAGUES

## Sentinel-Voice

This past Sunday, between games of a doubleheader with San Diego, the Pittsburgh Pirates paid tribute to members of the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Displayed in the upper deck at Three Rivers Stadium, along with the Pirates' championship banners, now hang banners commemorating the Negro League Championships won by both the Grays and the Crawfords.

Pittsburgh is the first major league club to permanently recognize the history of Negro League baseball in its park.

"The Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Crawfords contributed mightily to the baseball heritage of our city with many great players and exciting championship seasons," said Jim Lachimia, the club's Director of Publicity. "The accomplishments of those players and those teams

## PREVIEW

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they've already been mentioned for the division title - **Green Bay**.

**And Oh Yes, The Disappointments:**

In the AFC East, it'll be Bill Parcells that is disappointed, in trying to convert the **Patriots** into winners. The Central will see effort from all the teams, but if anyone shows disappointing features, it'll be the **Bengals**.

Arguably the worst of them all - **Seattle**.

The NFC East will see plenty of disappointment in the City of Brotherly Love - **Philadelphia**. The Eagles will struggle to keep up with the best, and get bested by the worst. Not really a disappointment, more like a shame, will be the **Tampa Bay Bucs**. They are young, and inexperienced, but Sam Wyche will encouragingly build this team!!! Out West, it'll be the **Rams** and **Falcons** jockeying for the cellar position. Capitalizing on every mistake possible. Yes, these two will be incredibly amusing. Atlanta has the caliber of improving, but unless Head Coach Jerry Glanville can get a hold of the reigns and get his team on the winning track, it'll be dismal.

should not be overlooked."

Some of the most talented players ever to perform in the Negro League wore the uniforms of the Grays and the Crawfords before baseball's color barrier was broken in the late 1940's.

Wilmer Fields and Robert Gaston of the Grays, Harold Tinker of the Crawfords, and Bill Pope, Walter Hughes and Allie Tompkins, who played for both squads, all participated in the festivities Sunday afternoon.



JOSH GIBSON, JR.

Josh Gibson Jr., whose father, Josh Gibson, was the most prolific home run hitter in the Negro Leagues, and also is a former Gray, was also in attendance. Gibson Jr., is considered by many to have been the greatest catcher in the history of the Negro Leagues. Like many Negro League stars, he never had the chance to play in the major leagues.

Gibson, who passed away in 1947 at age 35, was elected into

the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972 by a special committee on the Negro Leagues.

"There is a very rich baseball tradition in Pittsburgh and not all of it involves the Pirates," added Lachimia.

Both teams captured a total of ten Negro National League championships, Homestead nabbing nine straight between 1937 and 1945 and another in 1948; Pittsburgh winning in 1933, '35 and '36.

## Willie's BEST BETS

### THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS:

Kansas City -7 v. Tampa Bay

Denver Pk'em v. N.Y. Jets

Green Bay -7 v. L.A. Rams

### THE BEST DOGS ON THE BOARD

Cincinnati +7 v. Cleveland

L.A. Raiders +3 v. Minnesota

### THE BEST TOTAL-4-THE WEEK

L.A. Rams v. Green Bay

OVER-THE-38

### 1993 FORECAST

National Football Conference		American Football Conference	
<b>Eastern Division</b>			
Dallas	12-4/6-2	Buffalo	11-5/5-3
Washington	10-6/5-3	Miami	10-6/6-2
Philadelphia	8-8/4-4	Indianapolis	7-9/4-4
Phoenix	6-10/3-5	N.Y. Jets	7-9/3-5
N.Y. Giants	5-11/2-6	New England	3-13/2-6
<b>Central Division</b>			
Minnesota	10-6/5-3	Pittsburgh	11-5/4-2
Green Bay	9-7/6-2	Houston	10-6/4-2
Chicago	9-7/4-4	Cincinnati	7-9/3-3
Detroit	8-8/3-5	Cleveland	6-10/1-5
Tampa Bay	4-12/2-6	<b>Western Division</b>	
<b>Western Division</b>			
S.F. 49ers	13-3/5-1	San Diego	11-5/6-2
New Orleans	9-7/3-3	Kansas City	10-6/6-2
Atlanta	6-10/2-4	Denver	9-7/4-4
L.A. Rams	4-10/2-4	L.A. Raiders	6-10/3-5
		Seattle	3-11/1-7

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