

Washington Nationals Pay Tribute to Players in the Negro League

Courtesy Photos By Mitchell Layton



The Washington Nationals paid tribute to Negro League Baseball on Aug. 3, when the Nationals took on the St. Louis Cardinals in the first game of a three-game series. In honor of the Negro League legacy, Nationals players will wear replica 1943 Homestead Grays home uniforms; while the St. Louis Cardinals will wear replica St. Louis Stars road uniforms. Select game-worn Grays uniforms will be autographed following the game and auctioned to benefit The Washington Nationals Dream Foundation at a later date.

Negro Leagues alumni Eddie Banks, James Bland, Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, Jose Piloto, and James Tillman, as well as Geraldine Day, wife of Leonard Day, Brian Patterson, grandson of Buck Leonard and Sean Gibson, great grandson of Josh Gibson, were recognized during a pre-game ceremony. They were also available to sign autographs from the second through fourth innings behind Section 302, outside of the PNC Diamond Club on the 300 Level Concourse.

Sean Gibson threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Additionally, Washington Nationals players greeted fans at the gates from 5:35 p.m. until 6 p.m. Negro League highlights were shown throughout the evening.

Prior to the evening's game, Washington Nationals Ryan Zimmerman was presented with the 2006 Larry Doby Legacy Award for National League Rookie of the Year by the Negro League's Baseball Museum (NLBM.) Zimmerman was granted the citation following his 2006 season in which he batted .287 with 20 home runs and a NL Rookie-leading 110 RBI. He was unable to attend the award ceremony in January 2007 due to a prior commitment.

The Legacy Awards were established by the NLBM to honor Major League Baseball's best players, managers and executives with awards given in the name and spirit of Negro League legends.

◀ Sean Gibson, great grandson of former Negro Leaguer Josh Gibson, joined the celebration.

▶ Former Negro Leaguer and Homestead Grays Player James Tillman, was honored.



Photos by John E. DeFreitas

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Bonds Breaks Record!

San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Lamar Bonds hit No 756 on August 7 to break Hank Aaron's home run mark. Bonds, 43, is the most controversial player of his generation. Only two men held the record of most home runs, Babe Ruth from 1921-1974 and then Aaron from 1974 until now. Enjoying the moment was his son Nikolai, wife Liz and daughter Aisha. Former Nationals Manager Frank Robinson was at the game representing the MLB for the historical moment.



▲ Keke Palmer performing at a Washington Mystics Game.

"Akeelah and the Bee" Star on WNBA Summer Concert Tour

Keke Palmer, star of "Akeelah and the Bee" and Disney's "Jump In!," performed during halftime at the Washington Mystics game versus the New York Liberty on Aug. 3rd at the Verizon Center. Palmer has teamed up with WNBA and is set to perform in each of the WNBA's 13 arenas.

Palmer performed songs from her upcoming album "So UNCOOL," on Atlantic Records, featuring her first single "Footworkin'." Palmer is the winner of the Best Actress award at this year's NAACP Image Awards, the Most Promising Actress award from ShoWest and was nominated for a Screen Actor's Guild award. "The WNBA delivers family-friendly entertainment in arenas, on TV and throughout local communities, so teaming up with Keke was a natural fit," said Andi Poch, WNBA senior vice president of Marketing Partnerships & Business Development.

"Like WNBA players, Keke is not only a tremendous talent but an inspiration to young people and [she] encourages them to follow their dreams."

In addition to her concert tour, Keke is an active member of the 2007 WNBA Be Tour, which promotes healthy living among youth.