



The Black Aces

History • Heritage • Hope

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE BLACK ACES
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BASEBALL'S ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN TWENTY-GAME WINNERS

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"The Black Aces poignantly brings home how the courageous efforts of these Black pitchers helped change America; how America learned from their actions that we are all more alike than we are different."

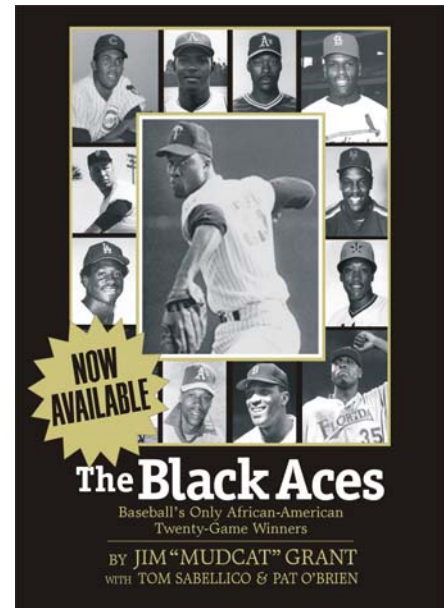
-Joe Morgan, Hall of Famer (1990)

"The Black Aces inspires others to pursue their dreams"

-President George W. Bush

"No baseball fan's collection of Negro League history can be complete without this important book."

-National Baseball Hall of Fame



NEW YORK – In the history of baseball, only thirteen African-Americans have had at least one twenty-win season in the Major Leagues. This is their story, told by Jim "Mudcat" Grant, the first African-American to win twenty games in a season in the American League, and the first to win a World Series game in the American League. But The Black Aces doesn't just tell the stories of The Black Aces. It is a story about America – north, south, east and west. It is the story of the game of baseball and the business of baseball; segregation and integration; discrimination and determination; heroes and cowards; fear, strength, and courage; opportunities denied to some, and seized by others; all told against the backdrop of the accomplishments of some of the most successful pitchers of their time.

With the insight that can only be gained by spending an entire life in the game of baseball, Mudcat shares his views and memories while giving you great detail about not only the other Black Aces, but also black pitchers that could have been twenty-game winners if they were allowed to play in the Major Leagues. Mudcat shares very personal observations about what The Black Aces and other pitchers of color, including Latino players, endured to make it to a Major League mound.

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The Black Aces, Baseball's Only African-American Twenty-Game Winners by Jim Mudcat Grant, with Tom Sabellico and Pat "Brien, Aventine Press, 2007, 479 pp., 34 pages of photos
Hardcover, ISBN 1-59330-488-9, \$34.95
Paperback, ISBN 1-59330-487-0, \$23.95



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For most of the first half of the twentieth century, African-Americans were excluded from Organized Baseball. But their love of the game, and their desire to play could not be denied. Despite that ban, “Blackball” was being played in just about every cow pasture and field available throughout the country. Black players criss-crossed the country in Negro League games and on barnstorming tours, bringing baseball to places where the Major Leagues never dreamed of going.

Many gifted athletes never got the chance to compete in the Majors, until the door was finally opened in 1947 with the signing of Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby. Once given the chance to compete, African-Americans showed the country that they were deserving of the opportunity. Many became superstars, but, on the mound, only thirteen African-Americans ever reached the magic plateau of twenty wins in a season.

This books tells the story of those thirteen men and a few of their predecessors, the obstacles they faces, and the determination they showed to succeed. But it is a story about so much more than just baseball. Against the backdrop of their grit and determination, it reflects the story of all African-American baseball players through the creation of the Negro Leagues, the evolution of the game, and the parallel integration of baseball and America.

The Black Aces was selected by The National Baseball Hall of Fame as the featured book during Induction Weekend 2006 at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, on the date that seventeen Negro League players and owners were inducted into the Hall.

The Black Aces was honored by President George W. Bush as a book which would inspire all others to pursue their dreams, and Jim Mudcat Grant, Ferguson Jenkins, Dontrelle Willis and Mike Norris were honored at a special reception at The White House on February 12, 2007.

About the Authors

Jim “Mudcat” Grant, a native of Lacooshee, Florida, was the first African-American in the American League to be a twenty-game winner and the first to win a World Series game. He was also the only African-American to win 20 games in one season and save 20 games in another. Mudcat has been in love with the game of baseball since childhood, and has been a great ambassador for the game, both during and after his successful playing career. He has traveled the country raising funds for innumerable charitable causes. He is a scratch golfer, an accomplished blues musician, and with *The Black Aces* he has completed his first book. Mudcat lives in Los Angeles, California, with his wife, Trudy.

Tom Sabellico is the Founder and President of Winning Beyond Winning, a charitable organization whose mission is to help former pro athletes and children. Tom is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). This is his second book, having co-authored *I Can See Clearly Now*, Ryne Duren’s biography. Tom is an attorney, and lives in Farmingdale, NY, with his wife, Paula, and his children, Christopher, Robin, Gina, Stephen and James, and granddaughter, Anna Rose.

Pat O’Brien has been practicing law in Manhattan for thirty years but he has been a baseball “nut” for a lot longer than that. He is also a SABR member and has partnered with Tom Sabellico in many projects, including the co-founding of Winning Beyond Winning. Pat resides in Long Island City, NY, with his wife, Mary, and children, Kathleen, Nora and Patrick.

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