

For Immediate Release  
May 21, 2020

**The Community Cup Classic Foundation and The Josh Gibson Foundation  
Announce Negro League Centennial Events**

**Cleveland, OH-** During 2020, [The Community Cup Classic Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Josh Gibson Foundation](#), [Lifeline Sports](#) and several core partners, planned to host multiple events throughout the calendar year to celebrate the Negro League Baseball Centennial in Cleveland and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cleveland Buckeyes first and only Negro League World Series title.

**Who:** The Community Cup Classic Foundation was created to improve adult engagement in all facets of a young person's development creating avenues where youth are shown appreciation by those within their community, their social groups and most importantly those who reside in their homes. The Josh Gibson Foundation was created to provide the type of access that he never enjoyed with the creation of facilities and baseball fields dedicated to the youth of the Pittsburgh community.

**What:** To Celebrate the 2020 Negro League Centennial and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cleveland Buckeyes World Series title, these Foundations and core partners will host multiple events throughout the summer and fall to raise awareness and garner continued support to achieve their goals. Along with many other national events, COVID-19 seriously impacted the implementation of these signature events. However, despite the grim realities of the health crisis, these core partners remain steadfast and committed to continue with our efforts to commemorate these monumental dates and educate the community and raise awareness of the impact these important historical events had on America as well as Cleveland, Ohio.

As such, we will transition to a virtual worldwide platform to celebrate these historical accomplishments and begin our events with a series of historical presentations throughout the year by Ike Brooks, Negro League Baseball Historian.

**When: Select Saturdays beginning at 10 am.**

June 13... Black Baseball Chronology

June 27... Bazooka Blasts – Luke Easter

July 11... Like Being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person to Invent the Telephone – the Legacy of Larry Doby

July 25... Women Negro League Players

August 8... The East-West All-Star Games

August 22... A Day Worth Remembering – Leon Day

September 12... The Magnificent 7 – Cleveland Negro Leaguers to the Majors

September 12... Josh Gibson: The Legend Behind the Plate

September 26... Satchel Paige: The Face of Negro League Baseball

October 10... Cleveland Indians and Social Change

October 24... Crossing the Line- the Re-Integration of Major League Baseball

November 14... Negro Leaguers on the 1954 AL Championship Team

December 5... A Million Thrills – The Second Time Around for Ted Toles, Jr.

**Where: Virtual and Worldwide**

Programs are free and open to all and will be held via Zoom. Participants must register through the registration links on the foundation websites which will be available beginning May 31.

**Why:** On February 13, 1920, Andrew “Rube” Foster led eight independent Black Baseball team owners into a meeting at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, MO. Out of the meeting came the birth of the Negro National League, the first successful, organized professional Black Baseball League that provided a playing field for African American and Hispanic baseball players to showcase their world class abilities. The Negro Leagues would operate for 40 years becoming a catalyst for economic growth in African American communities across the country and helped spark social change in America. The Homestead Grays, led by Josh Gibson-considered one of the greatest home run hitters, most feared slugger of any era, and often called the “Black Babe Ruth”- had won seven consecutive Negro League World Series titles (1938-1944) but were defeated four games to zero by the Cleveland Buckeyes in their first Negro League World Series appearance to win their first and only Negro League World Series Title. Plans are to celebrate this win the weekend of Sept 11-13 with a series of games and events at historic League Park in Cleveland, the site of that series.

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