

President of Josh Gibson Foundation talks with Vinnie

Christine Newby



Sean Gibson, President of the Josh Gibson Foundation, located in Pittsburgh, is honored that the U.S. Postal Service revealed two stamps commemorating Negro league baseball on July 15 at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

“Anytime you can represent the Negro League, not just across the United States, but across the world with stamps, it’s not only great for the Negro League, but it’s also great for the family members and players who played in the Negro League,” Sean Gibson, great-grandson of Baseball Hall of Fame and Negro League star

Josh Gibson, said.

“It was a very special day for us last week (at the ceremony in Kansas City).”

One stamp displays Andrew “Rube” Foster, founder of Negro League which operated from 1920 to 1960, while the other is a picture of a play at the plate.

“People always ask me, ‘Well, does (the stamp) benefit you?’ And I say, yes it benefits us-maybe not financially-but anything that is honoring the Negro League also always benefits the descendants and players who are not living.”

Sean says that the stamp helps bring awareness for people not aware of the league. “When (people) go to the USPS and purchase stamps, (they might) be inspired to do some research and learn more about the Negro Leagues.”

Josh Gibson, who once played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords (1927-29, 1932-36), was on a U.S. Postal stamp in 2000.

“For the Gibson family, it was a great honor for us to have Josh on the series of baseball legends,” Sean said.

Josh Gibson was inducted to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972 by the Committee on Negro Baseball Leagues. He led the Negro National League in home runs for 10 consecutive years and recorded 75 homers in 1931.

Gibson was often referred to as the black Babe Ruth, however Sean Gibson views it a different way.

“We say, ‘Babe was known as the white Josh Gibson.’ These guys never played against each other, but they have always been compared to each other because of their home run hitting ability. ”

Josh’s Hall of Fame plaque says he hit “almost 800” home runs.

The Pirates will honor the Pittsburgh Crawfords Aug. 21 by wearing Negro League uniforms.

According to Sean Gibson, fans can purchase tickets for Aug. 21 and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Josh Gibson Foundation. Fans must talk to Chaz Kellem at 412-325-4731 and deal directly with Kellem for the proceeds to benefit the foundation.

Visit joshgibson.org to find out more about the Josh Gibson Foundation.