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Negro Baseball Leagues as the Center of Midwestern African American Communities

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Oral Presentation O6.2

**NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES AS THE CENTER OF
MIDWESTERN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

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The Negro Baseball leagues operated in the United States from 1898 until the late 1950's. These teams and leagues provided the black communities of the United States with a special type of entertainment. As black owned and operated franchises, the Negro league teams developed a sense of community among African Americans and provided many economic opportunities. This is particularly true during the years of the Great Depression. This talk will focus on how league organization provided financial stability for many and the East-West Classic all-star game allowed an outpouring of community support and served as a rallying point for the black communities, especially of the Midwest, throughout the years of the Depression.