



Apr 17th, 2:35 PM - 3:50 PM

## Negro Baseball Leagues as the Center of Midwestern African American Communities

Trisha Bucholz

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Paul Bushnell, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Bucholz, Trisha and Bushnell, Faculty Advisor, Paul, "Negro Baseball Leagues as the Center of Midwestern African American Communities" (2004). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 1.  
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2004/oralpres6/1>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O6.2

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

Trisha Bucholz and Paul Bushnell\*  
Department of History, Illinois Wesleyan University

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.