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## **Joe B. Scott**



Joe B. Scott began playing in the Negro Leagues in 1936. He was a talented outfielder and first baseman. He played for 3 Chicago-based teams: the Zulu Giants, the American Giants and the Bacharach Giants. His other teams included the New York Black Yankees, Ethiopian Clowns, Memphis Red Sox and Pittsburgh Crawfords. In total, he played for 20 years.

Joe was an all around athlete, an ambitious and optimistic youngster that brought another glimmer of success to the high school sports program as well as the chess team. He had a natural ability for playing chess and really enjoyed the competition. Always a trailblazer, Joe was the only black player on the football team at Tilden. After high school, Joe found action on the fields of semi-pro and industrial teams.

He was a hard working, self-made young man. In the off-season, he lugged beef to boxcars to earn a living.

In 1939 Joe met Satchel Paige and joined Satch's team for a barnstorming tour. Joe offered the team consistent hitting, steady fielding and an ability to steal bases. The team traveled to cities abroad to fulfill challenges of major league, minor league and military teams. These games were great entertainment and drew big crowds. Joe's effort earned him All-Star appearances.

In 1942, Mr. Scott was called into the Air Force – Special Services. Assigned to the 345th Aviation Squadron, Joe held down his responsibilities while playing sports for his unit.

Joe was the first African-American player ever to play at Wrigley Field in Chicago.



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