



## Sean L. Gibson



Sean L. Gibson is the great-grandson of Baseball Hall of Fame legend Josh Gibson.

Sean has dedicated his life to the preservation of Josh's legacy and is the Executive Director of the Josh Gibson Foundation, a Pittsburgh area nonprofit organization. The Josh Gibson Foundation was established in 1994 in an effort to keep the memory of the Pittsburgh's beloved Josh Gibson and the entire Negro League alive. The foundation partners with the Duquesne University by matching up college students with elementary and middle school youth for tutoring. With a strong focus on education, the foundation currently serves roughly 300 children and plans to increase those numbers by starting new programs yearly. The foundation also sponsors the Josh Gibson Little League.

There is likely no greater expert on the history of the Negro Leagues than Sean who speaks to numerous groups each year teaching on the significance of these great men who played the game before Jackie Robinson integrated baseball in 1947.

Josh Gibson, the man that many regard as the greatest Negro League player ever, was born on December 21, 1911, in Buena Vista, Georgia. He relocated to southwestern Pennsylvania in 1924 after his father found work in a Pittsburgh area steel mill. Josh began catching for the Pittsburgh Crawfords in 1927. With the addition of Gibson, the Crawfords rose to the top of the city's sandlot teams and challenged Cumberland Posey's Homestead Grays, a stellar club of Black professional baseball players from across the nation.

During Gibson's career, he played ball with Hall of Famers Oscar Charleston, Cool Papa Bell, Judy Johnson, and Satchel Paige. The Homestead Grays won an unprecedented nine consecutive Negro National League pennants with Gibson behind the plate. Due to sporadic statistical accounting in the Negro Leagues, reports vary regarding the number of home runs Josh Gibson hit, with some estimates as high as 962. During his career, Gibson never played on a losing team. Moreover, it was rumored that Pittsburgh Pirates owner Bill Bensawanger signed Josh to a Major League contract in 1943, a full four years before Jackie Robinson entered the league, but Major League Baseball Commissioner Kennesaw Landis allegedly would not allow Gibson to play.

If your organization is looking for an expert on Negro League baseball, Sean Gibson knows its history from a personal viewpoint.

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