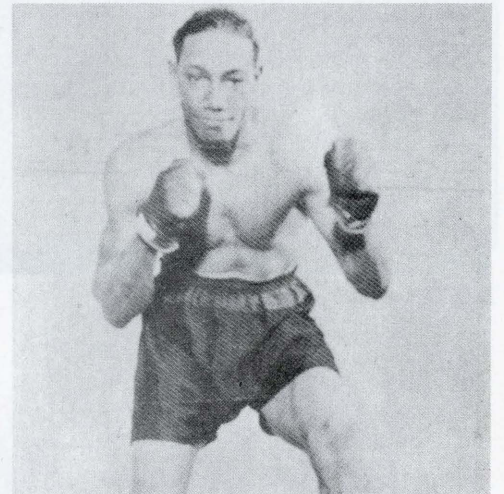


Sports events were also prominent during the early 1900's. Yakima had its own black baseball team, called the Yakima Blues. Boxing probably was the most dominant sports activity. Yakima produced some excellent boxers; the most notable was Henry Woods. Woods was a State Lightweight Champion, California State Champion and fought for the Lightweight Championship of the World which he lost by a knockout. It is believed the loss came because Woods slipped in some spilled water while going to his corner and had to fight the remainder of the fight with a sprained ankle.



*Early baseball team - Yakima Blues*

Another boxer, Leo Turner, was also recognized as a tremendous fighter; Winston "Stine" Mitchell; and Lee "Hurricane" Como were recognized champions within the state of Washington. Later, Charles "Hurricane" Carter, was on the verge of national recognition.



*Henry "Hank" Woods, boxing champion*

Local talent also sprang up among the pioneers. Mr. William Jackson with his adopted Sanders children formed a band that provided many hours of entertainment. One of the band members, Mrs. Margaret Sanders-Malone, an accomplished singing artist, provided musical presentations all of her life in the various churches, at funerals and social events.

While churches were the primary meeting place for Yakima's early blacks, some started civic clubs and other activities that brought families together. The Sears family sponsored a gospel singing group from Spokane that performed at several churches; the Sears Music Store in Sunnyside was involved in many community events. They co-sponsored the Community Concert Series



*The Jackson Band*